

Hafa Adai!

'Statehood, independence only way to avoid constitution being trampled.' **PAGE 2**
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75¢

'CNMI loyalty remains with US'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A Tinian senator during a recent trip to Washington, D.C. reiterated the Commonwealth government's position in doing business with a large Chinese company is for the welfare of its residents and that insinuating otherwise is a slap in the face to U.S.-CNMI federal relations.

» **Hofschenider to US:
Let's be economic
partners, diversify
CNMI's economy**



Sen. Jude U. Hofschenider (R-Tinian) in a meeting last week with U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) in
See LOYALTY on Page 4

'CJMT not directed solely to benefit Guam-based Marines'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The proposed CNMI Joint Military Training program addresses theater-wide training needs in the Western Pacific and serves joint and allied training needs that ex-

tend beyond the requirements of Guam-based Marines, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

DOJ Environmental & Natural Resources Division trial attorney Joshua P. Wilson said the CJMT program holds independent sig-
See CJMT on Page 4

Kensington aims to keep best hotel status

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kensington Hotel president and general manager Matt Park said they are planning to keep their status as the best hotel in The Marianas, based on the feedback they collected from all of their guests.

Kensington celebrated its second year anniversary last Saturday with public and private officials in attendance for the more than three-hour long celebration of fun, music, and

See KENSINGTON on Page 4



JON PEREZ

Local performers entertain the crowd with traditional island dances in last Saturday's second year anniversary of Kensington Hotel. Kensington president and general manager Matt Park, left, thanks everyone for their continued support.

INSIDE



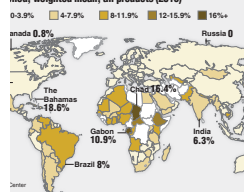
LOCAL

The 2018 Liberation Day festivities that were put on hold due to the hazardous weather circumstances brought by now Super Typhoon Maria will be extended.

PAGE 6

U.S. tariffs among the lowest

tariff applied 25% levies on \$34 billion of Chinese products, most Friday. This marks a distinct break from decades of U.S. trade policy: w lower tariffs and lower restrictions on the movement of goods and se



BUSINESS

The trade war that erupted Friday between the U.S. and China carries a major risk of escalation that could weaken investment, depress spending, unsettle financial markets and slow the global economy.

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ASIA

The operation has begun to rescue 12 boys and their soccer coach who will need to dive out of the flooded Thai cave.

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Local

'Statehood, independence only way to avoid constitution being trampled'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court in Puerto Rico Chief Judge Gustavo A. Gelpi stated that the only way

to avoid having the CNMI Constitution being trampled by U.S. Congress is for the CNMI to either become a state or get its independence. Gelpi also cited that if a citi-



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court in Puerto Rico Chief Judge Gustavo A. Gelpi stresses a point as retired CNMI Chief Justice Jose S. Dela Cruz listens during his presentation on U.S. constitutional rights in the territories and the CNMI at the American Memorial Park visitors center theater Friday night.

zen from Hawaii or California marries somebody in Japan and does not want to come back to the U.S., he can still continue to vote in the U.S. presidential election and that individual never lost his right to vote.

The judge, however, questioned why he, who is from Puerto Rico, or a CNMI resident should not be able to vote for the nation's leader.

"This may require constitutional amendment. There is no easy solution," Gelpi said.

Gelpi discussed U.S. constitutional rights in the territories and the CNMI during a presentation Friday night at the American Memorial Park visitors center theater in Garapan.

The presentation was made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, through a grant award from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Gelpi said the CNMI, Puerto Rico, and other territories don't have representation

See **STATEHOOD** on Page 4

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NMI Customs aims to reopen K9 training center

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Division of Customs Capt. J.J. Atalig said they are looking to reopen the Pacific Regional Detector Dog Training Center that had been closed for almost a decade. The center became a dog shelter after 2005.

Atalig, the program's chief instructor, said they have been collaborating with Customs director Jose Mafnas and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson in the said project. Customs is one of the divisions under the local finance department.

"I applaud them [Larson and Mafnas] for all the support they've been giving us, especially Gov. [Ralph DLG Torres] in regards to the K9 program and the special enforcement branch in Customs," Atalig said.

The center began its op-

erations in 1999 where they helped in the training of their counterparts from American Samoa and Palau as well as assisting both island nations to begin their own respective K9 programs.

"We helped them from the bottom... from infrastructure, resources, and training. For a while, our friends out there have been asking for our assistance. But after 2005, we weren't able to provide assistance to them because of lack of funding and little support," said Atalig.

He added that because of renewed government support,

led by Larson and Mafnas including Torres, they were again able to provide assistance to the CNMI's island neighbors. "We've opened the door to Guam and recently came back from Palau."

"We had a very good meeting with their Customs director and Finance [secretary]. They asked if we could provide assistance in the reassessment of their programs and evaluate the dogs that they have now," said Atalig.

He added that he sought the blessing of his superiors before moving forward with the program of seeing if their dogs

have the capability of doing Customs work.

Mafnas said the last time he visited the facility was in 2014 with the center becoming a

dog shelter.

Torres said he was still the lieutenant governor back then and was on an acting capacity as governor when he last vis-

ited the center. He then asked Mafnas if they wanted to reopen the facility as he promised that the administration

See NMI on Page 4

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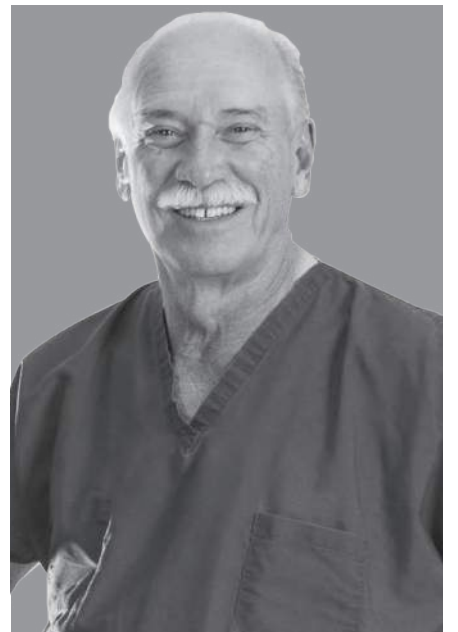
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Super Typhoon Maria generates hazardous surf

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency yesterday

warned the public about hazardous surf generated by Super Typhoon Maria along west

facing reefs and beaches of the Mariana Islands until this morning, Monday. Gov. Ralph

DLG Torres advised the public to avoid venturing near reef lines and beaches, especially

those facing west.

HSEMA said if caught by a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible.

“Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current,” HSEMA said in its advisory.

For Saipan, Tinian, and Rota hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet along west reefs will

slowly subside over Sunday night. The hazardous surf will fall below hazardous level to between 6 and 8 feet by early this morning, Monday.

Tropical Storm Maria intensified into a super typhoon as it moved away from the Marianas last week. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

LOYALTY

From Page 1

the nation’s capital expressed “concerns” over a U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission report regarding the presence of China in the Micronesia region as a whole.

The report also included statements from former Marine Corp commander Lt. Gen. Wallace “Chip” Gregson.

The report linked local opposition to components of the CNMI Joint Military Training proposal to Chinese investments in the region.

“Our loyalty and allegiance to the United States should not require that we forego the desire to secure economic stability for the CNMI. Our support of the casino industry comes from the desire to ensure that pension and other obligations are paid and essential government programs and services

continue,” said Hofschneider in a statement from his office.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in a separate statement, said it is the responsibility of local leaders to provide resources and government services to CNMI residents. He noted that efforts are continuously exerted in order to create an environment that provides both jobs and sustainable revenue for government operations.

“We are proud members of the American community, but due to the difficulties involved in operating a successful enterprise in a region that is geographically distant from the U.S. mainland and in need of economic growth, foreign investment is a necessary and important component of our plans toward increasing the standards of living for our people,” Torres said, before expressing gratitude toward Hofschneider for meeting with Murkowski.

Hofschneider added that

he finds it insulting that the CNMI has gotten flak for seeking foreign investment to help improve its economy and the livelihood of its people.

“Equivocating our welcome of Chinese investments, or any other foreign investments for that matter, which have been fueling the CNMI’s economy to disloyalty or ignorance of our national security needs is both an insult and a disservice to U.S.-CNMI federal relations.”

Hofschneider noted the importance of the “CNMI’s perspective” on the issue to debunk the “false narrative that is being fueled to serve no other purpose than to create fear and divisiveness.”

“National security policy considerations for our region should include efforts to promote economic stability as part of the overall national security strategy. Let’s be more than national security partners. Let’s be economic partners and diversify the CNMI’s

economy,” said Hofschneider.

The USCESRC report noted the possible implications of China’s presence in the Micronesia region pertaining to U.S. military defense interests. The report noted that several analysts remain concerned over the China’s influence in the region relating to U.S.-Federated States of Micronesia relations. These include relationships to Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae, among others.

“The rapid growth in Chinese investment and influx of Chinese tourists—bringing record economic growth to the CNMI—is also fueling opposition to U.S. Department of Defense plans by business executives, local politicians, and residents,” the report stated.

“If Chinese activities deter the United States from carrying out its plans for the CNMI, it will contribute to China’s goal of weakening U.S. military presence in the Indo-Pacific,” it added.

Rico in 1952.

“Here you call it the covenant. In Puerto Rico, the constitution was written in the nature of a compact. Very similar,” he said.

Gelpi said in a sense it is a bilateral relationship, but really it is the U.S. that has more power.

international agreement to station Marines in Guam instead of Okinawa.

“Thus the relocation of the Marines in itself is a major federal action that is supported by significant and independent legal and diplomatic concerns,” Wilson said.

He said the plaintiffs are wrong to contend that the training the Navy studied in its NEPA review is inadequate to allow the relocated Marines to “function as a fighting force.”

To the contrary, Wilson said, the Navy has planned for and conducted a thorough NEPA review of training in Guam and Tinian that provides the relocated Marines with the training necessary on those islands to maintain force readiness.

Wilson said the Navy’s acknowledgment that Marine Corps forces relocating from Okinawa to Guam would, as do the Marines currently on Okinawa, have to use alternate locations to accomplish requisite core competency training does not create a certainty that this additional training must or would occur in the CNMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

STATEHOOD

From Page 2

whenever the U.S. president makes important decisions.

Gelpi said an example is when U.S. Congress declares war.

“We don’t get to vote. We

don’t have to say absolutely. But if there is war, we are all under obligation to enlist for military duty or work on national importance,” he said.

The judge said it’s ironic that the people of the CNMI and other U.S. territories do their obligation but have no vote on those decisions.

He also pointed out that when it comes to serving in the military, the territories have the highest per capita enlistment in the entire nation.

Gelpi said the CNMI reached a commonwealth agreement with the U.S., which is very similar to what was reached in Puerto

as stated in the draft CJMT Environmental Impact Statement issued in 2015 is to “reduce joint training deficiencies for military services” in the entire Western Pacific, and is not directed solely to benefit Guam-based Marines.

He said the “purpose and need” for CJMT, as it was proposed in 2015, includes support for U.S. training relationships with allied nations, which is a key Pacific-region military goal that stands apart from the relocation of U.S. Marines to Guam.

Wilson said the plaintiffs are wrong when they argue that “in the absence of thousands of relocated Marines stationed on Guam, there would be no reason for the Navy and Defense to pursue” the training programs proposed as part of the CJMT.

He said establishing a training hub on a U.S. territory (Guam) and a U.S. commonwealth (the CNMI), where the U.S. has ultimate control over the training hub, bolsters joint and allied military readiness in the Western Pacific and it would be neither “irrational nor unwise” to pursue the CJMT in the absence of the Guam relocation.

The DOJ attorney said the CJMT program is intended to address current training defi-

ciencies in the Western Pacific.

These deficiencies, he said, exist for the Marines currently stationed on Okinawa, and would persist for Marines relocated from Okinawa to Guam.

Addressing these needs, Wilson said, which go well beyond the immediate needs of the specific Marines relocated from Okinawa, “is an undertaking with independent utility from the relocation.”

He cited as an example that the amphibious landing and live fire maneuver area the Marines desired on the island of Pagan represented a unique and previously unavailable capability aboard a U.S. controlled facility for the Marines.

Wilson said Pagan is the only area in the CNMI that could allow for contiguous amphibious landing and live fire maneuvering area.

Wilson said the relocation of Marines from Okinawa to Guam has clear independent utility from the joint and allied training proposed under the CJMT and will proceed regardless of whether the Navy decides to move forward with the CJMT program.

He said the U.S. and Japan have made a decision, supported by high level political commitments and a binding

NMI

From Page 3

would give its full support to the K9 program.

“Right now, we are ready to open. We already have inquiries and we’re also grateful we have the attention of [the Oceania Customs Organization] and endorsed us to chair this year,” said Mafnas.

Torres said his administration fully supports Customs. “If you support and believe in the lead-

ership, the officers would work better. We’re going to continue to fund their programs. We’re working to get a full container X-ray, which is more than \$1 million. That’s a lot of money but compare that to the lives that we’re going to save.”

“Once we get that [container X-ray] we’re going to save lives for a long time. But even without [X-ray], you’re still doing a good job. We’re glad that things are moving forward as we continue to bust [illegal contraband],” added Torres.

KENSINGTON

From Page 1

dances that included a performance of South Korean all-girl musical group Odd Eye.

Park, in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, said that Kensington has achieved the status in a short period of time.

“In two years, I can proudly say that we are evaluated by our guests—all travelers in Saipan and Guam—where we get high scores.”

“If you see online, we’re already mentioned as the best hotel in our area. Our target is to keep that status, not only in the CNMI and Guam, but hopefully the whole [region],” added Park.

He said that the challenge now is to keep that status since a number of hotels would soon open to match the high room demand on the growing tourism market.

“So, we have to keep that spirit, especially with a lot of hotels that are going to open. We will soon have plenty of competitors. We need to become better than them to achieve that goal,” he added.

He also thanked the community and their staff for their support. “This won’t be possible without the community’s support, all the people of Saipan and the CNMI. We’re not here if not for you—the community and our workers.”

“Our staff is our treasure. They give the best service possible to all our guests—local and off-island like our Korean and Chinese guests. I can only say a huge thank you to everyone. And, with these hotels coming up, we’re asking for your continued support.”

Park said E-Land, Kensington’s parent company, would continue to invest and improve their facilities. “In terms of investment, we’re planning to have a garden to educate the

kids—not only the children of our hotel guests.”

“We’re going to have a fruit and vegetable garden in the western side of our land. We had already started with the project and maybe next year you could already see that great garden here at Kensington.”

Park said that Kensington, despite its distance from the Garapan tourist district, continues to enjoy an occupancy rate in the 80s. “I think that is really a satisfactory percentage for us.”

Proud of their success

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion congratulated Kensington and E-Land for their second year anniversary. “This is the first ever Kensington property opened outside of South Korea, so we are grateful that the CNMI was selected and are proud of their success.”

“The Kensington Hotel has elevated the tourist experience in the CNMI because of the high-end amenities and luxurious rooms and dining options they offer our guests. They turned the former Nikko Hotel into something unique and inviting for locals and visitors alike.”

He added that Kensington should also be commended for their contributions to the community. “Their corporate social responsibility team has adopted and maintained Pappau Beach and Coral Ocean Point Beach, they’ve built bus stops for our children, amongst many other community service gestures they’ve made in just two short years.”

“We work hand in hand with Kensington and E-Land to promote the CNMI in all our major source markets. We thank them and look forward to partnering with them to continue promoting the CNMI as a premier tourist destination,” added Concepcion.

Kuentai repatriates 800 Japanese servicemen

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Kuentai Association, which has been repatriating Japanese servicemen remains from the CNMI for the past six years, has collected the remains of 800 servicemen until they were forced to put a stop to their repatriation.

The CNMI is known to be a mass burial ground for numerous ethnicities, specifically the Japanese who established livelihoods in the Northern Marianas and who also fought the United States Army in the islands during World War II back in the 1940s.

The Kuentai Association and Kuentai USA have been working extremely hard to bring home the thousands of Japanese servicemen who lost their lives in the CNMI and where never properly put to rest.

Last Saturday at the Aqua Resort Club Saipan parking area, also historically known as a mass burial site for both American and Japanese World War II servicemen, the Kuentai Association hosted their 3rd Annual Memorial Service to pray for the dead.

According to Kuentai USA chair Usan Kurata, the association has collected the remains



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Kuentai Association poses for a photo with CNMI residents including Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang last Saturday during the 3rd Annual Memorial Ceremony at the Aqua Resort Club Saipan parking area.

of 800 Japanese soldiers out of over 20,000 for the past six years, but were forced to put a stop to their excavations due to nonsensical conditions imposed by the U.S. and CNMI governments.

"In the past six years, we collected 800 bones on this island. Eight-hundred were Japanese and we collected eight American," he said.

"We only stopped our digging but we are still continuing our research... there are still 28,000 Japanese soldiers and 400 American soldiers on this island," he added.

During the memorial ceremony, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang made an appearance and was asked to give the opening remarks.

Apatang said he is deeply

moved by the Kuentai Association's determination to repatriate their own because these soldiers deserve to rest in peace with their loved ones after years of being away from home during the pre- and post-war.

Apatang is urging the CNMI government to allow the Kuentai Association to continue to repatriate their own.

Japan Consul to the CNMI Kinji Shinoda said that the memorial service is extremely important because it is not only to pray for the peace of the deceased servicemen who still remain on foreign land, but it also memorializes the ties that the CNMI will always have with Japan and the short period of peace before the Second World War broke that

cost the CNMI, Japan, and the U.S., valuable lives.

The memorial ceremony was led by reverend Keisuke Bessho, venerable Hakuga Murayama, venerable Kouya Matsuoka, and venerable Kikawa Yoshikawa.

The ceremony consisted of a traditional Japanese prayer of peace and the burning of incense for the spirits of the dead.



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Liberation Festival to be extended

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2018 Liberation Day festivities, which were put on hold due to the hazardous weather circumstances brought by now Super Typhoon Maria, will be extended.

Last week, Super Typhoon Maria, that has now made its way to Japan's Ryukyu Islands in the course of one weekend, brought hazardous winds and pouring rain to the island of Saipan that forced the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Liberation Day Committee to completely take down the Liberation Day festival setup and to cancel it until further notice.

Although it brought sadness to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and the committee to cancel the festivities, Apatang wants to ensure the community that the festivities

will go on and will be extended.

"We have to extend it [the festival] for the community...we will sit down with the committee and discuss further where we will go from here," he said.

During an interview with Apatang last weekend at the Kuentai Association's annual Memorial Service, Apatang said that it is more than likely that it will take a couple of days before they can even restore the festival grounds due to the flooding brought by Maria.


"The grounds are still wet you know and we need to wait for it to dry up before we start putting the tents and the stage area back up," he said.

The Liberation Day Committee will be meeting today to discuss further plans for the Liberation Day Festival and the Liberation Day parade.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Liberation Day Festival grounds remain wet and muddy as a result of now Super Typhoon Maria that impacted the CNMI last week.




Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-18-019

Supply and Services for Installation & Commissioning of 2 X 8-13 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System



The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities to supply, install, integrate and commission (including without limitation all design, engineering, supervision, installation, testing, commissioning, training and handover) of (2) two complete new engine systems. Proposers must note that replacement of Engine No. 8 is the base proposal while the replacement of Engine No. 4 is an additive proposal. Each replacement Diesel Generating Plant shall be within a capacity range of 8 - 13 MW which must be supplied, installed, tested, and commissioned as an integrated system at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks proposals from a legally recognized business entity authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which has as one or more of its equity owners (principals) a qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER (OEM), from which CUC intends to contract with to purchase one, and perhaps two, fully installed and commissioned turn-key engine systems that best fit CUC's power supply requirements. The Proposer must be authorized as OEM's agent to bind OEM to contractual terms including issuance of OEM's equipment warranty and certifying the installation of the works anticipated under this RFP meet OEM specifications, the Proposal, and meet or exceed all warranty requirements.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$500.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **July 18, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Power Plant facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-18-019 - Supply and Services for Installation & Commissioning of 2 X 8-13 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than August 23, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* equal to fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposed price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due in whole or in part to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under any anticipated contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable

Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including without limitation any and all excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page:

<https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.


This RFP solicits services regulated by the Commonwealth's Board of Professional Licensing (BPL). All bidders shall possess Certificate of Authority from the BPL as contemplated in and required by NMIA ss 125-20.1-501 which provides in part that any corporation or partnership "Firm," whether organized under the Law of the CNMI or other jurisdiction, hereafter offering to engage or engaging in the practice of engineering, architecture, land surveying, or landscape architecture in the Commonwealth must have a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) issued by the Board. All firms must have a valid Certificate of Authorization before advertising to offer or offer professional engineering, architectural, land surveying, or landscape architectural services in the CNMI. All bids submitted shall be accompanied by a certificate of authority in the name of the OEM submitting the bid.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 23, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christopher Timmons, Assistant Attorney General, via email address christopher_timmons@cnmioag.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 • Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: 235-5131



WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2017 CUC Water Quality Report is now available on-line! This year, we have a separate report for each island: Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. These reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please open the following web sites to view what contaminants were detected in your water during 2017 and to learn more about your drinking water.

For Rota, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CCR-2017-Rota.pdf>

For Saipan, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CCR-2017-Saipan.pdf>

For Tinian, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CCR-2017-Tinian.pdf>

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

RA AYOORA REPOODIL AMMWELIL SCHAAL

Repoodil yóomw 2017 CUC Ammwelil Schaal aa yoor online! Ráágh yeel, ai ayoora repoodngáli falúw kka: Luuta, Seipél, me Tchiliyól. E lo llól repood kkal arongorong ikka e impotanti reel milikka e toowow me ammwelil schaal iye ów ghal úlúmi.

Emmwel ubwe suughi website ikka e amwirimwiritiw ubwe amwuri meta kka e nngaw iye e lo llól yóomw schaal llól ráághil 2017 me ubwe metaff reel schaal iye ughal úlúmi.

Ngáli Luuta, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CCR-2017-Rota.pdf>

Ngáli Seipél, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CCR-2017-Saipan.pdf>

Ngáli Tchiliyól, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CCR-2017-Tinian.pdf>

Ngáre u mwuschel rebwe seleti repood yeel, ngáre u tipáli ubwe kkapas ngáli escháy reel repood yeel, ngáre u mwuschel pappid yeel ngáre rebwe email-li ló ngálugh, faingi ló CUC me (670) 664-4282.

RIPOT KUÁLIDÁT HĀNOM ESTA MANAGUAHA

Iyon-mu 2017 (Dos Mit Diesi Sietti) na Ripot nu i Kuálidát Hānom i CUC managuahayi pǎ'gu giya on-line! Pǎ'gu na sǎkkan, in na'guahayi siparǎo na ripot para kada' isla: Luta, Saipan, yan Tinian. Esti na ripot siha masaguaniniyi impottǎnti na infotmasion put i tutuhonǎ yan kuálidát put i Hānom ni un gigimin.

Put fabot baba i tinattiyi na web sites para un atan hǎfa siha mankutchinu ni masodda' gi hǎlum i hānom-mu gi durǎntin 2017 (Dos Mit Diesi Sietti) na sǎkkan para un ke'tungu' mǎs put i hānom ni un gigimin.

Para Luta, hǎnao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CCR-2017-Rota.pdf>

Para Saipan, hǎnao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CCR-2017-Saipan.pdf>

Para Tinian, hǎnao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CCR-2017-Tinian.pdf>

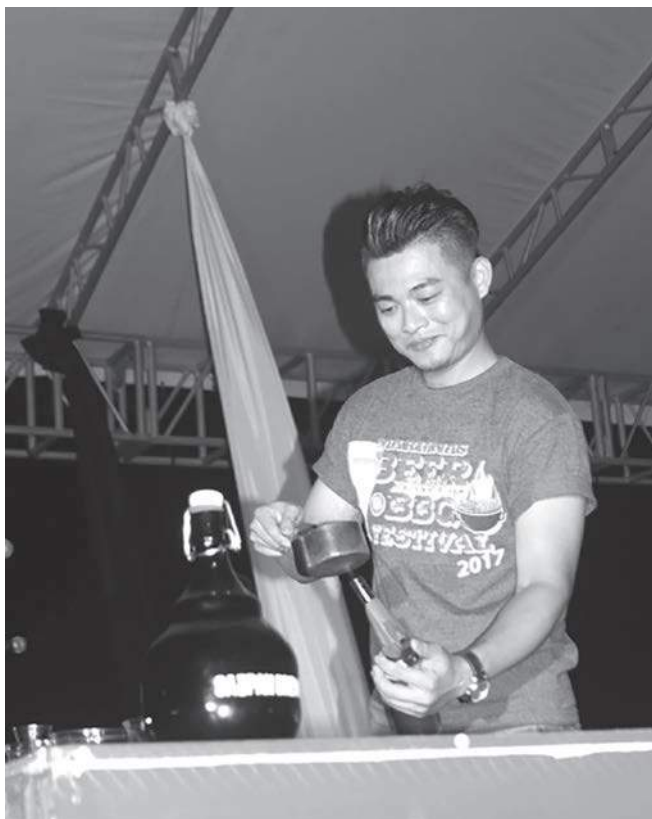
Kumu un nisisita i ripot para u matransláda, ya malagu' hǎo kumuentusi hǎyi put i ripot pat malagu' hǎo kopian pǎppit u ma'entrega pat ma-email guatu para hǎgu, put fabot hǎgan i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival on Oct. 6

It's Round 2 for the Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival on Oct. 6, 2018, on Saipan. The festival, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, will pair Marianas brews with island-style barbecue and other appetizers beside the Saipan lagoon at Garapan Fishing Base.

"Following the success of last year, we're looking forward to the return of the Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival in October," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, in announcing the event. "We learned a lot from our inaugural festival, and we're taking all of that feedback to make this year even better than the first. We're planning the same island vibe, along with a number of new ideas we'll be rolling out shortly, so mark your calendars for Oct. 6!"

The festival is scheduled from 5pm to 11pm and will feature a new 2018 signature beer glass that patrons can use throughout the event and keep as a souvenir. The event will be open to the public but only adults age 21 and older will be allowed to consume alcohol (21 is the legal drinking age in The Marianas). Slated to participate are Saipan Brewing Co, which manufactures the only locally brewed beer in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Co-owner Frankie Hong of Fourplay Bar in Taiwan mixes the original Saipan Blue cocktail created for the Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival on Nov. 4, 2017, at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan. The 2nd Annual Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival will be held on Oct. 6, 2018.

The Marianas, and other companies are anticipated to join.

This year's festival will again include the participation of Taiwan's famous Fourplay Cuisine & Bar. Last year owners/bartenders Frankie Hong and Kenny Shih debuted ex-

clusive beer cocktails themed after each main island in The Marianas—Saipan Blue, Tinian Red, and Rota Green. A new signature beer cocktail for the event is anticipated to debut at this year's festival, and a highlight of the night will be shots

created by the bar owners based on personal inspiration provided by each consumer.

Live music, an island-style

barbecue, appetizers, and non-alcoholic drinks will also be a part of the evening.

For more information, con-

tact Community Projects specialist II Ray Villagomez of the MVA at 664-3200/1 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com. (PR)

SALES and MARKETING MANAGER (Closes 20 July 2018)

- Develop and coordinate all marketing, sales and promotional efforts on behalf of Hotel Nikko Guam and its product lines for Individual packages with Japan Wholesalers.
 - Coordinate market activities to assure growth, product/service development, internal communications, quality control, profitability and operating cost efficiency. Monitor the competition.
 - Responsible for maintaining an account base as designated by the Director of Sales and Marketing. Be responsible for and implement a sales action plan and manage relationships with wholesalers, agents or individuals.
- College degree Marketing or equivalent plus 2-3 years hotel sales or marketing related experience in the Japan market OR, equivalent combination of education and experience that meets the knowledge skills and abilities of the position. Must have knowledge and understanding of hotel operations and the Japan Market.

Ability to speak, read and write in the Japanese language preferred.

- Must be able to work flexible schedules and be able to travel to cultivate the market.
- Ability to work independently and train; well-organized, team player with excellent communication, negotiating, networking, presentation, organizational and guest relations skills. High energy level, strong people management skills, and the ability to effectively work with a multi-national team.
- Must have proven sales skills, knowledge of the competitive market, demonstrated resourcefulness, highly motivated and strong work ethic.
- Ability to research, analyze, and prepare statistical reports and make presentations. Ability to manage priorities and demands, and ability to coordinate between divisions, solve problems and resolve client or employee issues.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Send resumes to Mr. Ele Magdael, HR Manager at ele.magdael@nikkoguam.com. Applications may be completed at the Human Resources Office, Monday to Friday, 0900 to 1200 and 1300 to 1600 hours



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P.O.BOX505201, SAIPAN MP96950

Tel: (670) 288-1593 483-1593

E-mail: pacificchanghongac@gmail.com

	REGULAR PRICE	LIBERATION DAY PRICE
Lin's Air New Energy Saver Split Type A/C 9,000BTU 115V-220V 60Hz SEER 13.0 FREON R410	\$558	\$448
Lin's Air New Energy Saver Split Type A/C 12,000BTU 115V-220V 60Hz SEER 13.0 FREON R410	\$608	\$498
Lin's Air New Energy Saver Split Type A/C 18,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 13.0 FREON R410	\$848	\$748
Lin's Air New Energy Saver Split Type A/C 24,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 13.0 FREON R410	\$948	\$848
Lin's Air New Energy Saver Split Type A/C 30,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 13.0 FREON R410	\$1,198	\$1,098
Lin's Air New Energy Saver Split Type A/C 36,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 13.0 FREON R410	\$1,698	\$1,598
Lin's Air New Energy Saver Split Type A/C 48,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 13.0 FREON R410	\$2,498	\$2,398
Lin's Air New Energy Saver DC Inverter Split Type A/C 9,000BTU 115V-220V 60Hz SEER 20.5 FREON R410	\$698	\$598
Lin's Air New Energy Saver DC Inverter Split Type A/C 12,000BTU 115V-220V 60Hz SEER 18.4 FREON R410	\$798	\$698
Lin's Air New Energy Saver DC Inverter Split Type A/C 18,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 18.3 FREON R410	\$1,198	\$998
Lin's Air New Energy Saver DC Inverter Split Type A/C 24,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 20.9 FREON R410	\$1,598	\$1,398
Lin's Air New Energy Saver DC Inverter Split Type A/C 30,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 18.8 FREON R410	\$1,798	\$1,598
Lin's Air New Energy Saver DC Inverter Split Type A/C 36,000BTU 208-230V 60Hz SEER 17.3 FREON R411	\$1,998	\$1,798
Lin's Air Brand New Energy Window Type A/C 5,000BTU 115V 60Hz FREON R 410A	\$248	\$198
Lin's Air Brand New Energy WINDOW Type A/C 8,000BTU 115V 60Hz FREON R 410A	\$348	\$298
Lin's Air Brand New Energy WINDOW Type A/C 12,000BTU 115V 60Hz FREON R 410A	\$348	\$398
4.5 CU. FT REFRIGERATOR 115v 60HZ	\$380	\$298
7.1 CU. FT REFRIGERATOR 115v 60HZ	\$488	\$398
9.9 CU. FT REFRIGERATOR 115v 60HZ	\$698	\$598
17.0 CU. FT REFRIGERATOR 115v 60HZ	\$898	\$798
18.0 CU. FT REFRIGERATOR 115v 60HZ	\$928	\$828
13.8 CU. FT UPRIGHT FREEZER 115v 60HZ	\$898	\$798
7KG WASHING MACHINE 115V-60Hz 115v 60Hz	\$499	\$398
12KG WASHING MACHING 115V-60Hz 115v 60Hz	\$599	\$498

A/C INCLUDES:

1. Two years warranty from purchase date. (PARTS AND LABOR - SPLIT TYPE AIRCON)
2. One Year Warranty from date (Parts & Labor) Window Type, Refrigerator / Washing Machine
3. Free basic installation. (15Ft of co tubing & electrical)
4. Free wall bracket.
5. FREE REMOTE CONTROLLER REPLACEMENT (IF BROKEN)
6. NO Cleaning servicing included

EXCLUSION:

1. Need power supply/ drop line for each A/C unit. (BEFORE A/C INSTALLATION)
 2. Disconnect box / elect breaker. Not included.
 3. Concrete slab for out-door unit (if needed) not included.
- NOTE/REM: OVER BASIC INSTALLATION LABOR & MATERIAL (S) IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS QUOTE.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Release of PH passports announced

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, has announced the release of Philippine passports to those who renewed their passports on May 21, 22, and 23, 2018. You can pick up your passports at Finasisu Terraces Apartment Bldg D, 2nd Floor, top of the Mini-Mart Store, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm (12pm-1pm break time).

Bring old passport and receipt. For any inquiries or details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. **(PR)**

Saipan Agricultural Fair on Aug. 4

Saipan Agricultural Fair Association is pleased to inform the community that the 35th Saipan Agricultural Fair will take place on Aug. 4, 2018, 9am-2pm at the Civic Center, Susupe.

Rule book and pre-registration forms (fees apply) for the adult plant and animal competitions are available at the Department of Lands Natural Resources offices in Kagman and Lower Base, Office of Animal Health Services, the Garapan Public Market, and Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services,

Building F. Rule Book and Pre-registration forms for the Youth Division are available at the NMC-CREES Main Office, Building F.

Deadline to submit the pre-registration forms is July 20, 2018. Proclamation signing for this event is on July 30, 2018 at 10am at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capital Hill. Farmers, ranchers, and the general public are encouraged to attend.

Please see below for contact information:

■ Plant Division: Joshua Santos, 256-3319

■ Animal Division: Juan Taman, 234-6169

■ Youth Division: Lorenza Aldan, 237-6876

■ Vendors Division: Tina DLG Camacho, 256-3319. **(PR)**

Survivors & caregivers support meeting on July 11

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 11, 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant.

To RSVP or for more information, please call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca-marianas@gmail.com. **(PR)**

SSHS opens registration for SY 2018-2019

Saipan Southern High School announced that the last day to turn in registration for school year 2018-2019 would be on July 31, 2018. Required documents must be copied before turning in. If there is any other information or question, call SSHS' main office at 664-4000. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm. **(PR)**

Witnesses host convention

The public is invited to attend a free annual event being hosted by Jehovah's Witnesses on the weekend of July 13-15 at their Kingdom Hall in Gualo Rai. With the theme "Be Courageous!" this year's convention will focus on practical ways to enjoy a happy life now and have a real hope for the future.

Among the convention's 54 presentations will be Bible-based talks, audio dramas, interviews and short videos. A multimedia presentation will demonstrate what real people—and even five animals—can teach us about courage.

A Sunday morning public discourse will explain why Jesus told a grieving father: "Have no fear." (Mark 5:36) And those in attendance Sunday Afternoon will see Jonah get Swallowed

by a fish in the feature film: "The Story of Jonah—A Lesson in Courage and Mercy."

Sessions begin each day at 9:20am. Admission is free and collections will not be taken.

For more information, visit the website: jw.org. **(PR)**

Guam commission on language, history, culture meeting on July 12

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' Taotao Tãno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold a special meeting on Thursday, July 12, 2018 from 12:30pm to 3:30pm at the Fasilidat Idukasion CHamoru Guma' Faninadahen Kosas Guahan Senadot Antonio M. Palomo Board Conference Room, 2nd floor, Hagatna. The agenda items include approval of minutes, financial/budget matters, and updates. The work session originally scheduled for Thursday, July 12, 2018 is cancelled on this date.

For further information, call chair Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. **(PR)**

Writer's Workshop comes to Tinian on July 13

The Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Tinian

Public Library, Tinian Mayor's Office, and author Walt F.J. Goodridge will present the author's popular Writer's Workshop on Friday, July 13, 2018 from 1pm to 4pm, free of charge at the library on the island of Tinian.

This event requires at least 15 pre-registered participants in order to take place. Sign up by visiting the library on Tinian, or by calling Julie Sablan during Tinian library hours (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm) at 670 433-0504. (Rota residents may express their interest for a Rota workshop at this same number)

To register, visit the front desk of the Tinian Library or call Julie Sablan during Tinian Library hours (Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm) at 433-0504. For more information or to learn more about Goodridge, and to see some success stories from past workshops on Saipan, visit www.saipanwriters.com. **(PR)**

MHS student orientations set

Marianas High School will be conducting their school year 2018-2019 student orientations:

■ Aug. 9, 9am-12pm: Incoming freshmen & new transfer students; school gym

■ Aug. 10, 9am-12pm: Sophomores; school gym

■ Aug. 13, 9am-12pm: Juniors; school gym

■ Aug. 14, 9am-12pm: Seniors; school gym

MHS students can now


register for their courses by visiting our school website at marianashighschool.com or logging in directly to <https://goo.gl/forms/bJKezkcxGos9WVx2>. **(PR)**

Intro to Spanish Class at JKPL

During the month of July, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be hosting a free Intro to Spanish for Teens and Adults.


The dates for the classes are Friday, July 6, Wednesday, July 11, and Wednesday, July 18. The classes will be held from 4pm to 5pm. Because it is a basic Spanish class, participants will learn topics like the alphabet, counting, basic phrases, and more. This class is part of the Teen and Adult Summer Library Institute, so attending all four classes will count toward the reading log. To sign up for the class, please visit the library and ask for Emily. Questions? Call the library at 235-READ.

For the latest news and events, please visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmlib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Please call the library at 670-235-7322/23 for questions/concerns. The library's summer hours are as follows (effective June 12-Aug. 4): Tuesday-Friday, 9am-5:30pm, Saturday, 9am 4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2019 State Plan is now available for public review and comments from July 02-09, 2018. Interested members of the general public may review the CNMI WIC Program 2019 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Upper Navy Hill, Mayoria Ave. Building N25. Office hours are from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than close of business on July 9, 2018.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.


To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov.
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

/s/ **Esther L. Muna**
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ **Erin Angela Camacho**
WIC Program Administrator



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Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lt. Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the designated Public Housing Authority (PHA) authorized to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the CNMI. Federal guidelines provide that the CNMI prepare a PHA Annual Plan for the upcoming fiscal year. NMHC has completed the draft FY 2019 PHA Annual Plan and would like to inform the general public that:

- NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public for the FY 2019 PHA Annual Plan on July 16, 2018, 3:00 p.m. at NMHC's Conference Room located at the main office in Garapan, Saipan; and
- NMHC will open the public comment period from June 29, 2018 through July 16, 2018; written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on July 16, 2018 to:

- Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Attn: FY 2019 PHA Annual Plan
P.O. Box 500514
Saipan, MP 96950

Any interested persons wishing to express their views on the draft FY 2019 PHA Annual Plan may do so by either attending the public hearing or by submitting written comments to NMHC. Copies of the draft FY 2019 PHA Annual Plan are available for viewing on our website at www.nmhc.gov.net and during normal business hours at the NMHC Main Office in Saipan, as well as the field offices on Tinian and Rota.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Middle School Conference on July 25, 26

The CNMI Public School System, in collaboration with community partners, would like to invite you and your child (must be enrolled in grades 6, 7, or 8) to attend the upcoming Middle School Conference that will be held July 25 and July 26.

The theme is focused on “Building a Stronger We: Creating Stronger Relationships Between Parent and Child.” This parent and child event is an opportunity to build on strategies focused on promoting resiliency within our youth and arming our parents with the means to do so. It is a great way to gear up for the new school year.

Participating in the discussions and activities will allow parents to gather experience on strategies they can use to help their child or children succeed in school and, more importantly, tune in to issues

surrounding our youth and learn ways to help them break through these barriers.

The conference will explore areas such as:

- Education on Sexual Health
- Emotional and Social Wellness/Mental Health
- Strategies for Academic Success

- Building a Stronger We: Creating Stronger Relationships Between Parent and Child

The conference schedule are as follows:

- July 25, 2018; 8am-3pm-Student Conference
- July 26, 2018; 8am-3pm-Parent Conference

Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided during both sessions

For more information, contact your child’s school or Jocelyn Itibus at 322-6760 or email at jocelyn.itibus@cnmipss.org. **(PR)**

Walk to Remember on July 26

In honor of Bereaved Parents Month, the group We Remember Them, CNMI, is holding a Walk to Remember, in honor of all children who have died too soon. The group is asking all bereaved families to walk together as a symbolic way to show the love we carry for the children we mourn and honor.

The short walk will be held on Thursday, July 26, starting at 5:30pm at Minachom Atdao Pavilion; participants are encouraged to wear black and white: black for grief and white for hope. Families are welcome to bring a photo of their loved one to put on a table at the pavilion.

We Remember Them, CNMI is inviting the Saipan community to join them to support their families; the

mental and physical effects of child loss are enormous. Lives are forever altered. Your compassion and support are greatly appreciated.

Participants will join together to share in a potluck meal after the walk; please bring finger-food to share. Water will be provided, but feel free to bring your own.

For further information, contact We Remember Them, CNMI (werememberthemcnmi@gmail.com), Rose Hocog (rose.tadahocog@gmail.com, (670)287-3933), Tania Marie Mendiola (taniamendiola4@gmail.com, (670)588-4399), Donna Krum (donnakrum@gmail.com, (670)783-1900), or Jill Derickson (jilld@pticom.com, (670)989-9821). **(PR)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>



INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)
BID SUBMISSION DATE: Tuesday, July 24, 2018
TIME: 10:00 AM
NMHC IFB 2018-008
Repair and Renovation of the Division of Youth Services (DYS) Shelter
Bid packets will be available on **June 20, 2018**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by Cash, Credit Card, Money Order, Cashier’s Check, and Certified Check payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.
The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.
A **Mandatory Pre-Bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on July 10, 2018, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Only those individuals who have paid the bid packet fee are allowed to attend the pre-bid meeting. All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, Saipan, fax to (670)234-9021, email at jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp, no later than 10 a.m., July 09, 2018. Response to questions shall be shared with all bidders.
For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670)234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubry Hocog
Chairwoman,
NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director,
Division of Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public that DPW, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has amended its 4-Year Federal-Aid Highway Program Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP).

A copy of the plan can be obtained at DPW Technical Services Division Highway Branch for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd. Floor Joeten Commercial Bldg., Beach Road (above First Hawaiian Branch) or via email to: ims.dpwtsd@gmail.com no later than July 11, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

Any questions, please contact Mr. Kenn Aldan, Federal Program Coordinator at 234-9828 or 234-9838.

The following are listed in the TIPP:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan: PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2017 FEDERAL	FY2018 FEDERAL	FY2019 FEDERAL	FY2020 FEDERAL
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program	Admin	\$882,000.00	\$882,000.00	\$882,000.00	\$882,000.00
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Service	Admin	\$22,500.00	\$22,500.00	\$22,500.00	\$22,500.00
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
ALL	ALL		2019 CNMI Highway Master Plan	Planning		\$200,000.00		
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Hazard Elimination	Construction	\$3,313,578.00			
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE - Design				
				Construction			\$500,000.00	
I	Sinapalu	11	Route 11 - Sabana Road Improvement, Phase II	Construction			\$750,000.00	\$250,000.00
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE - Design	\$400,000.00			
II	San Jose	24	Route 24 Resurfacing West	PE - Design		\$50,000.00		
				Construction			\$1,000,000.00	
II	San Jose	25	Route 25 Resurfacing South	PE - Design			\$100,000.00	
				Construction				\$400,000.00
II	Tachungnya	27	Route 27- Road Repair (behind Dynasty)	PE - Design		\$50,000.00		
II	Tachungnya	206	Route 206 - Road Improvement	PE - Design		\$50,000.00		
				Construction				\$400,000.00
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE				
				ROW				
				Construction				\$1,000,000.00
				CM				
III	Kopa DeOro-Sugarking	30	4-Way Traffic Signal System	Construction			\$750,000.00	
				CM-DPW			\$50,000.00	
III	Quarter Master	315	3-Way Traffic Signal System	Construction			\$650,000.00	
				CM-DPW			\$50,000.00	
III	Oleai-Cristo Rai	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 3 (JP Center to Oleai)	PE Design		\$50,000.00		
				Construction				\$1,500,000.00
				CM				\$290,000.00
III	Cristo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 (Bank of Guam to Horiguchi Bldg.)	PE Design		\$50,000.00		
				Construction			\$3,000,000.00	
				CM			\$450,000.00	
III	Kagman	34	Route 34 - Kagman Road	Construction		\$800,000.00		
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE Design		\$50,000.00	\$180,000.00	
				Row			\$50,000.00	
III	Talafofo	36	Route 36 - Winward/Chalan Kalabera Dev	Construction	\$10,171,086.00			
			Route 36 - Winward/Chalan Kalabera Dev (SAFETEA-LU) (funds from fiscal allocation)	Construction	\$3,328,914.00	\$4,250,000.00		
					\$5,415,052.00			
III	Naftan	302	Route 302 Naftan Road	PE Design			\$20,000.00	
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design		\$300,000.00		
				Construction			\$1,717,000.00	
				ROW				
				CM				
III	Savana	316	Route 316 - Savana Road	PE Design			\$300,000.00	
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design		\$100,000.00		
				Construction			\$500,000.00	

TOTAL OBLIGATION	\$13,382,044.00	\$6,874,500.00	\$10,991,500.00	\$4,764,500.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:	\$12,796,816.00	\$3,443,072.00	\$5,210,872.00	\$747,672.00
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated for possible VI loans)		\$4,614,000.00	\$2,500,000.00	
OJTSS/NSTI	\$42,500.00	\$42,500.00	\$42,500.00	\$42,500.00
Annual Allocation:	\$3,985,800.00	\$3,985,800.00	\$3,985,800.00	\$3,985,800.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)	\$16,825,116.00	\$12,085,372.00	\$11,739,172.00	\$4,775,972.00
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)	\$13,382,044.00	\$6,874,500.00	\$10,991,500.00	\$4,764,500.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)	\$3,443,072.00	\$5,210,872.00	\$747,672.00	\$11,472.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)	\$10,171,086.00			

II. Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2017 FEDERAL	FY2018 FEDERAL	FY2019 FEDERAL
	Saipan	All	COTA Administrative & Maintenance Facility			\$810,000.00	
			Purchae of One (1) Medium-Duty Low Floor ADA accessible Transit Bus for Fixed Route				\$200,000.00
			Purchase of Two (2) ADA Accessible Vans for the Demand Response Service				\$170,000.00
Total Obligation:						\$810,000.00	\$370,000.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					\$1,206,840.00		
FY 2016 Allocation					\$961,891.00		
FY 2017 Allocation					\$825,745.00		
FY 2018 Allocation							
FY 2019 Allocation							
TOTAL ALLOCATION:					\$2,994,476.00		
TOTAL OBLIGATION:					\$2,168,731.00		
Carry Over FY 2018					\$825,745.00		

/s/ James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts must come to the rescue

The announcement that Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy is retiring has triggered joy among conservatives and anguish among liberals and moderates who follow legal issues — as well as concern among some Americans who fear that's what's next could put our nation in a fraught and ominous place.

While Kennedy — nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 — is generally seen as a conservative, he is more of a liberal-libertarian on some high-profile issues. It was striking to see so many analysts agree that some of his most important decisions advanced progressive goals, including legalizing gay marriage, upholding abortion rights, forcing California to end mass overcrowding of state prisons, banning the death penalty for minors and upholding the right of detainees at military bases such as Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to defend themselves and challenge their treatment before a judge.

This is why so many people are nervous about what will happen if President Donald Trump and the Republican Senate majority, emboldened by the recent string of 5-4 high court political victories, install a purer conservative as Kennedy's replacement. It's quite possible reproductive rights would disappear or be sharply limited in numerous states and that the criminal justice reform movement would face new barriers. It's also possible Kennedy's departure would lead to efforts to roll back some gay rights he worked to establish and end the court majority's limited support of affirmative action programs to help more minorities overcome obstacles they face in pursuing the American Dream.

But while it is unrealistic to think that Trump will pick a Kennedy-style justice, there is hope that a hard-right court won't go on a precedent-shredding crusade in coming years. That hope lies with Chief Justice John Roberts, who is likely to become the court's swing vote and is acutely aware of the court's image and the damage that's possible to its reputation and to the nation if it is seen as just another wing of deeply ideological conservatism.

There's evidence this is why Roberts was the fifth vote to save the Affordable Care Act in 2012 when President Barack Obama's signature 2010 law came before the Supreme Court. As CBS News legal correspondent Jan Crawford reported at the time, court observers rejected the notion that Roberts had succumbed to liberal media pressure, writing that Roberts saw nothing but peril for the high court in the "historical consequences" of "unelected judges" thwarting the will of Congress in a murky area of the law. This reluctance was evident again in another challenge to Obamacare's legality, in 2015, when Roberts (and Kennedy) joined four liberal justices in preserving the law.

This is as it should be. Any chief justice who doesn't appreciate the importance of preserving the idea that the Supreme Court is a judicial body, not a political one, risks damaging the institution. Yes, polls already show deep public skepti-

See SUPREME on Next Page



New Holocaust Museum exhibit reminds of how US rejected desperate refugees before

Every year around July Fourth I think of my immigrant grandparents who made their way as teenagers by foot and cart from rural Russia to Hamburg, Germany, and then traveled in the bowels of a steamship to Ellis Island in 1905.

If not for them, I wouldn't be celebrating the birth of our country. Nor would I be as aware of the rich legacy that immigrants have brought to this nation. Moreover, had America not received them, my grandparents would almost certainly have died in 1941, when Nazis overran their hometown, marched its 3,100 Jews into a forest, and shot them.

So I take the current corrosive debate over the value of immigration very personally. Which is why I chose to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's fascinating new exhibition on Americans and the Holocaust last week, with its gripping examination of an era when immigrants were made unwelcome.

The exhibit is solely focused on the pre-World War II years of the late 1930s and early 1940s (complete with newsreels and cinema clips of WWII movies). But there are eerie resonances with now.

"What we see in the exhibit are some enduring questions about how Americans debate their responsibilities in the world," says Daniel Greene, the exhibit's curator and a specialist in U.S. immigration history. "In this case, when Germany falls apart, whether to aid refugees or people targeted for murder. These questions don't go away."

On Nov. 9 and 10, 1938, during the so-called Kristallnacht pogrom, thousands of Jewish businesses, cemeteries, and synagogues were attacked, while Jews were beaten and robbed. Soon after, 30,000 Jewish males were sent to early concentration camps. By then, around 309,000 German Jews were frantically seeking U.S. visas, but the annual U.S. quota for German refugees was only 27,000.

German Jewish parents were so desperate to save their children that they were willing to send them to America alone. In 1939, a bipartisan team of Sen. Robert Wagner, D-N.Y., and Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers, R-Mass., proposed a bill to provide visas for 20,000 German Jewish children above existing quotas. The bill never came to the House floor, due to ardent opposition from white Southern Democrats. First lady Eleanor Roosevelt urged her husband to support the bill, but he demurred.

Many, if not most, of the children who could have been saved probably perished.

The exhibit profiles courageous Americans who conducted their own rescue missions, including Eleanor and Gilbert Kraus, a Philadelphia Jewish couple who extricated 50 Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Vienna (and found State Department officials willing to grant them U.S. visas).

But on the whole, the State Department stubbornly resisted letting Jewish emigres in, refusing even to fill the existing annual legal quota, let alone increase it. And the public backed it:

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



In 1938, two weeks after Kristallnacht, a poll showed that 98 percent of Americans disapproved of the Nazis, but 72 percent disapproved of letting in more Jews.

So why, in a country that had considered itself a land of immigrants, was there such a resistance to saving victims of the Nazis?

Anti-Semitism played a major role, but so did fear of economic competition (in the decade of the Great Depression), along with isolationism, xenophobia, and racism.

You can watch newsreel footage of the infamous Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, a highly popular white Catholic nationalist; he preached over radio and to mass rallies that "we need to restore America to the Americans ... in the name of Christianity."

Then there was the aviation hero Charles Lindbergh, whose isolationist America First movement demanded that America stay out of World War II, and who damned the Jews for "wanting us to go to war." In this atmosphere, outright white supremacist groups such as the Silver Legion of America flourished.

Comparisons between then and now are clearly inexact, but, to me, the most ugly is our government's attitude towards war refugees from Syria. Regime and Russian war crimes have killed hundreds of thousands of civilians, whose death by barrel bombs and poison gas can be seen on YouTube. Yet the United States admitted only 3,000 Syrian refugees in 2017 and 11 so far this year.

The most shameful comparison is with the Trump administration's treatment of refugee children, separating them from parents fleeing lethal violence in Central America and seeking asylum in the U.S.

But the most fascinating comparison has to do with the issue of legal immigration, which the Trump administration is openly trying to cut by half. Unlike the 1930s, American public support for legal immigration is rising. A June poll by the Pew Research Center found that 38 percent said legal immigration should be kept at its present level, while 32 percent want it to increase and only 24 percent say it should be decreased.

In other words, despite the endless xenophobic and America First rhetoric from President Donald Trump, most Americans still appreciate the contributions that immigrants make to this country. That is a piece of good news as we celebrate the holiday this week.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Catholic Church now delivering on long-standing promises about clerical abuse

To even casual observers of recent news about the Catholic Church, it's clear that a new day has dawned. Finally, after decades of stalling, denials and civil lawsuits, Catholic dioceses seem to recognize their accountability for the criminal behavior of pedophile priests.

Consider the case of retired Bishop Joseph Hart. The former prelate of Cheyenne, Wyo., now 86 years old, could face criminal charges under what the current bishop of Cheyenne has deemed credible and substantiated accusations of sexual abuse.

News of the case traveled ahead of the headlines to Kansas City, where Hart was ordained in 1956. Many believe that is where he first groomed young boys for sexual abuse in the parishes he served until 1976.

The Kansas City diocese readily restated that Hart had previously been accused of abusing 10 people, which led to multi-million-dollar settlements involving allegations against him and other Kansas City priests, some now deceased.

The archbishop of Kansas City, Kan., announced in May that a priest, John H. Wisner, has been defrocked for allegedly sexually abusing three men now in their 40s, a punitive step that previously was almost unheard of and requires a sign-off from the Vatican.

The archdiocese was criticized for not more widely and earlier publicizing the move against Wisner. However, it has subsequently become clear that the archdiocese went to great lengths in pressing for the defrocking. And it has beefed up the office that handles such allegations to mirror the stellar team on the Missouri side of

the Greater Kansas City area, all without fanfare.

In June, the scandals reached deep into church hierarchy. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the former archbishop of Washington, was removed from ministry duties after findings that he'd been credibly accused of sexually abusing a teenager decades ago. Church officials also admitted that McCarrick, 87, had been previously accused by others, some of whom had agreed to be silenced by settlements.

Even more hope can be derived from off-the-record conversations I and other reporters have had, not to mention the hierarchy's new attitude toward reporters and others who are seeking answers about clerical abuse.

Diocesan spokespeople return calls right away, even at late hours. And they reply with full statements, not dodging replies that deflect the seriousness of the accusations.

That never used to happen.

They have engaged outside investigators who have gone to great lengths to substantiate or disprove allegations. Some of the people who have been contacted are the same people who years ago were shoved aside by previous Catholic officials, their suspicions and concerns downplayed or dismissed outright.

For accused priests, this is definitely a new era. Before, they could take comfort in knowing the church would likely shield them from ever having to take responsibility. Victims were not to be believed. (Both Wisner and Hart have denied the allegations against them.)

Dioceses are demonstrating that they understand the gravity

By **MARY SANCHEZ**

The Kansas City Star



Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or via email at msanchez@kcstar.com.

of the sins of pedophile priests. This is hard-won progress. And it has been possible only because victims have continued to step forward and tell their stories — and far too often to retell and retell them because they weren't previously believed.

The honesty and openness that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops promised way back in 2002 is finally materializing.

It's often said that sexual abuse survivors, those who were attacked as children, are never whole again. The comment isn't intended to be condescending, nor is it made from a place of pity. It simply acknowledges the deep wound that such abuse inflicts, damaging victims' ability to trust, to form healthy relationships and even to believe in a loving God.

All of this is why the statements — and, more importantly, the actions — that are occurring deserve note. Note this statement issued by Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr. of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph as it reacted to the news out of Wyoming about Hart: "If you were harmed by Bishop Hart or any other person who has worked or volunteered for the diocese, no matter how long ago, the diocese wants to provide care and healing resources to you and your family."

One single phrase — "no matter how long ago" — conveys a new and long overdue attitude. Phone numbers were given, and blessedly, those calls will be answered.

Did Trump just roll back affirmative action? Yes and (mostly) no

By **MICHAEL MCGOUGH**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Michael McGough is the Los Angeles Times' senior editorial writer, based in Washington.

The Trump administration this week rescinded Obama-era guidance to school districts and colleges and universities about how they could take race into account. Was this a rollback of affirmative action?

Yes and no, but mostly no. The administration's withdrawal

of these documents, joint products of the Education and Justice departments, doesn't alter civil rights law nor does it repeal the Supreme Court decisions the Obama documents cited to justify some consideration of race in college admissions and pupil assignments in public schools.

At the same time, rescinding these documents sends a clear message that this administration frowns on policies that take race into account even when they are deemed legal under Supreme Court rulings.

In his announcement Tuesday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the Trump administration was rescinding 24 guidance documents, including several dealing with race and education. The most important documents to be revoked were two guidance letters originally issued in 2011, one dealing with race and colleges, the other addressing elementary and secondary schools.

The Obama administration's guidance parsed court decisions that have allowed school districts and colleges to take race into account without violating the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. But the documents left no doubt that the two departments thought such policies can play a useful role in achieving "diverse learning environments." And in construing Supreme Court decisions on racial preferences, including a 2007 case involving the Seattle public schools that was widely regarded as a defeat for racial preferences, the Obama administration chose to accentuate the positive.

More than that, the guidance for colleges provided tips about how institutions that adopted race-conscious policies could prepare themselves for possible legal challenges; for example, by maintaining documents that describe "your compelling interest" in racial diversity and listing race-neutral policies that "you considered and rejected."

The guidance for colleges, which was modified in 2015, did not mention that some states, such as California with Proposition 209, have adopted policies prohibiting "preferential treatment" on the basis of race by state universities, or that the Supreme Court ruled in 2014 that such restrictions don't violate the U.S. Constitution. (The departments did respond to the 2014 decision by sending a letter to educational institutions saying that the decision left intact previous rulings allowing the use of race "absent any restrictions in state law." This letter also was among the "guidance documents" Sessions said would be rescinded.)

It's not surprising that an administration opposed to racial preferences in education would want to withdraw this guidance and repost on a government website a statement by the George W. Bush administration that encourages "race-neutral methods"

to assign students to elementary and secondary schools. Elections have consequences.

But the administration can't change the underlying law, as advocates of race-conscious admissions policies were quick to point out. Ted Mitchell, president of the American Council on Education, told Politico: "Colleges and universities that consider race and ethnicity as one factor in a holistic admissions review are committed to following the law of the land. And make no mistake; this is the law of the land. Today's announcement does not change that."

Even so, some supporters of race-conscious policies worry that the change in guidance will discourage educational institutions from taking race into account even when it is legal to do so. The subtext of the Obama guidance statements was: "We have your back."

The Trump administration wants to send a different message: that it disapproves of what most people mean when they talk about "affirmative action" (a term that also can refer to less controversial policies such as outreach by university admissions departments to schools with large minority populations). That will fortify the conviction of many Trump critics that the president is indifferent, if not hostile, to racial minorities. But the change of policy will please many of his most fervent supporters.

SUPREME

From Page 10

cism that this is true. Yet not just Roberts but all justices must appreciate what's at risk if this skepticism builds.

A 2016 essay by Jason Willick in *The American Interest* examined how relative public confidence in the courts helps maintain a belief in government legitimacy despite intense polarization. A Supreme Court widely seen as "a vehicle for validating and implementing the agenda of one of the two parties" is a court that poisons the well of democracy. But so long as America has a high court that "doles out enough victories to both sides so as to make the idealized version of the nonpartisan council of philosopher kings seem not too far removed from the reality," government legitimacy remains.

Roberts appears to have grasped this long ago — or at least Americans who seek the best for their nation should hope. Because if he hasn't, the ugliness of our present politics only will get worse — as hard as that may be to believe.

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TV entertainer Trump in Montana

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY "PEPE BATBON" CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

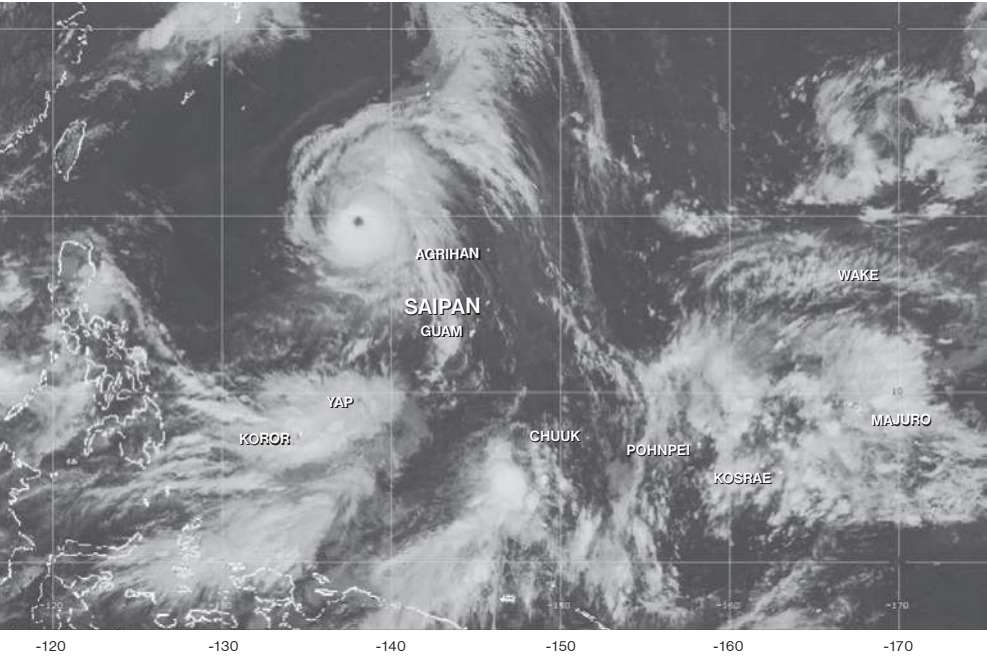
45 in Montana on stage in his role as TV entertainer a pathetic lying leader comedic campaign explainer bringing in chief of staff flunkie from right wing Fox more propaganda and irrational policy out of the box outgoing Gen. Kelly finally got the chance to do it out the door goes slimy thief EPA chief Scott Pruitt the former EPA chief still faces twelve investigations he got away with millions and no Trump explanations Pruitt did not beat his boss who faces more allegations today in a Montana state campaign endorsement speech he mentioned a famous gay entertainer in a strange reach (verbatim) "I don't have a guitar or an organ, no organ. Elton John has an organ." close 45's blooper file again any bets on who's next to go? B. Carson or B. DeVos? probably who ever makes more headlines than the Boss

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:57 AM, SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Maria is centered about 480 miles NW of Guam at 4 AM this morning with max winds at 145 mph around its large eye. Satellite shows a peripheral band on Maria's southeast flank, with showers and isolated thunderstorms popping up around Guam and Rota, moving NNE. Moderate south to southeast winds are present over the Marianas waters, with combined seas of 6 to 7 feet at Tanapag and Ritidian buoys, primarily due to a dominant WNW swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
London	Mostly Sunny	84° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	89° / 71°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	87° / 71°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°	
Paris	Sunny	84° / 61°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°	
Rome	Sunny	91° / 70°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	85° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	70° / 56°	
Seoul	Cloudy	84° / 72°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	88° / 70°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:19 AM	LOW TIDE	1.95	
10:35 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.08	
5:13 PM	LOW TIDE	1.57	
10:15 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.99	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:56 AM	2:50 PM	-
Tuesday	2:45 AM	3:49 PM	-
Wednesday	3:38 AM	4:52 PM	-
Thursday	4:37 AM	5:56 PM	-
Friday	5:40 AM	6:59 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Momo meets The Marianas



Chinese actress and entertainer Rachel Momo sits in the cockpit before her commuter flight to Tinian on June 24, 2018, during her FAM tour of The Marianas.

Popular Chinese actress and entertainer Rachel Momo visited The Marianas on June 21-27, 2018, on a FAM tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority in cooperation with two Chinese media outlets. Will 10 million fans on Sina Weibo and 4.8 million fans on Douyin, the most popular video social platform in China, Momo has appeared on several popular TV series and reality

shows. In addition to sharing photos on her social media, Momo was accompanied by a shooting crew to produce a video feature for Haibao.com and a cover story for the August issue of *Nexus* magazine. “Rachel Momo has a tremendous social media following and during her visit posted numerous photos and videos showing how The Marianas is ideal for FITs—free, indepen-

dent travelers—to experience sailing, driving tours, open markets, and other activities,” said MVA Marketing manager Broc Calvo. “We extend a big thank you to all of our MVA members on Saipan and Tinian who supported this FAM tour.” Eateries visited including Hard Rock Café Saipan, Kinpachi Restaurant, JC Café, Nam Dae Moon, Salty’s, Loco Taco, and Fiesta Resort


& Spa’s Joyful Dinner Show. The crew also filmed in Hyatt Regency Saipan, where they also lodged and were given a welcome dinner on June 22. The crew visited some of the most iconic places in Saipan and Tinian, including Japanese bunkers, San Juan Beach, Banzai Cliff, downtown Garapan, Taga Beach, House of Taga, Blow Hole, and Broadway. (PR)



Chinese actress and entertainer Rachel Momo, in orange, and members of her production crew prepare to sail the Saipan lagoon on June 23, 2018, in The Marianas.




Chinese actress and entertainer Rachel Momo shows her love for The Marianas with a heart-shaped hand sign at a welcoming dinner at Hyatt Regency Saipan on June 22, 2018. From left are Hyatt Regency Sales manager Mei Demapan, Momo, Marianas Visitors Authority Marketing manager Broc Calvo, and MVA China Travel Trade manager Rex Zhao.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-18-018

ISLAND WIDE WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Waterline Repairs, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation to verify leaks and leak repair on various types of waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **July 3, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-18-018: Island Wide Waterline Repairs, Saipan**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 19, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 5, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.

Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Procurement & Supply



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-18-024

REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF

ENGINE # 8 AND # 4 FRAME, BLOCK & ALTERNATOR PARTS AT POWER PLANT

NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the removal and relocation of Engine 8 and Engine No. 4 frame, block & alternator parts at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In addition they will also be required to remove the coils from the stators and store them in a designated place. Both engines have been partially dismantled by the CUC plant personnel.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration.

As this is a re-bid, a Pre-Bid Conference is not considered necessary; CUC will allow Site Visit based on pre-scheduled arrangements with CUC through email. Prospective Bidders who had not participated in the previous bid (CUC-IFB-18-020) are encouraged to visit the site for familiarizing the site conditions.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-18-024: Removal and relocation of engines 8 and 4 at Power Plant No. 1**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are however expected to have experience and the required skill sets in similar work.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 16, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager – via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE

Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.

Purchasing Administrator

Vanuatu officially opens two Provincial Emergency Operations Centres

PORT VILLA, Vanuatu—This week, Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlot Tabimasm officially opened two Provincial Emergency Operations Centres in Malampa and in Sanma. The PEOCs were funded by the European Union through the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project, with a total cost of €700,000. Each center is built to facilitate three or more National Disaster Management Officers and it is fully equipped with the necessary technologies and ability to send and receive real-time disaster information.

In the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Pam in March 2015, the NDMO found in their Post Disaster Needs Assessment that the communication and information flow between the national response coordination agencies needed significant improvement, which resulted in the misdirection of vital relief supplies for affected communities, delaying their recovery.

In an effort to address this, the Vanuatu government is working to decentralize disaster management capacity, which is in line with the government’s five-year plan

to improve national disaster coordination.

Speaking at the official opening of the Malampa emergency provincial operations center, Tabimasm stated, “Our No. 1 priority during a disaster is to ensure that everyone is safe, and the Provincial Emergency Operations Centres will improve communications lines between the national and provincial officers and assist our decision makers in determining how to best respond to emergencies. Establishing these PEOCs in targeted province like Malampa and

Sanma will significantly support NDMO Officers in implementing provincial disaster plans within communities in each province.”

The important role of effective communication before, during, and after a disaster is critical to reducing loss of life in emergencies. The establishment of the PEOCs will strengthen resilience in the face of current challenges dues in a changing climate.

Acting head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation for the Pacific, Emmanuelle Guihe-neuf, stressed the EU’s support for these centers’ saying, “The

European Union is pleased with the result this partnership has achieved and remains committed to supporting efforts towards strengthening national disaster resilience around the Pacific.”

Also present at the opening was the Pacific Community’s representative, BSRP project manage Taito Nakalevu who noted, “The construction of the two PEOC’s feeds into one of our projects key results areas, which is ‘Effective Preparedness for Response and Recover.’ With these two buildings, we believe that Vanuatu’s emer-

gency/disaster preparedness and response capacity will definitely be strengthened”.

The ACP-EU Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific is a €19.37-million project, funded by the EU and implemented by the Pacific Community. The objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability, as well as the social, economic and environmental costs of disasters caused by natural hazards, thereby achieving regional and national sustainable development and poverty alleviation in ACP Pacific Island States. *(PR)*

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

As of July 06, 2018
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. American Sinopan, LLC	6/26/2018 SMS-2018-X-020 Amendment 2018-1	Construction of temporary field office & bridge	Tanapag	Major Construction-Existing	Under Review
2. Diving Shop Light House, Inc.	6/26/2018 SLR-2018-X-169	SCUBA Diving	All Saipan Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved - 6/27/2018
3. United Empire Investment	6/26/2018 SPI-2018-X-168	Cruise Ship Operations	Tanapag Harbor	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
4. Mobil Oil Marianas Islands, Inc.	6/25/2018 SPI-2018-X-167	Geotechnical Survey (Boreholes)	Route 30, Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved - 6/26/2018/
5. Milan Rabold	6/22/2018 SPI-2018-X-166	Drydock	Sea Plane Ramp	Ports & Industrial	Approved- 6/22/2018
6. Trac Huynh/Megumi Takaku Blue Palms Dive Service	6/11/2018 RLRm-2018-X-0611	SCUBA Diving	All Rota Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved - 6/27/2018
7. Hiroshi Yamamoto dba Rubin Corporation	6/8/2018 RLRm-2018-X-0608	SCUBA Diving	All Rota Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved - 6/27/2018
8. Yu Lu	6/20/2018 SPI-2018-X-165	Hand-Clearing of Vegetation	Manilao Drive, Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial	Approved - 6/22/2018
9. Luana Inc. dba Heart of Gold Divers	6/14/2018 SLR-2018-X-163	SCUBA Diving	Grotto, Obyan, & Laolao	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved - 6/22/2018
10. S.U.I Corporation dba LJ Tour	6/13/2018 SLR-2018-X-149	Snorkeling	Grotto & Managaha	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved - 6/22/2018
11. Ocean Tour Corporation	6/15/2018 SLR-2018-X-164	Kayak & Snorkeling	All Saipan Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved- 6/21/2018
12. Aqua Soul Saipan, Inc.	6/14/2018 SLR-2018-X-162	SCUBA Diving	Grotto, Obyan, & Laolao	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved- 6/21/2018
13. Aqua Del Rey Saipan Incorporation	6/14/2018 SLR-2018-X-161	SCUBA Diving	Grotto, Obyan, & Laolao	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved- 6/21/2018
14. World Corporation dba Wave Jungle	6/14/2018 SLR-2018-X-160	Kayak, Snorkeling, Standup Paddle Board, Windsurfing, & Floaters	World Resort beach side	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved- 6/21/2018
15. The Rose Empire Corp. Flyboy Parasailing	6/14/2018 SLR-2018-X-158	Parasailing & Snorkeling	Outer Cove Marina	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved- 6/21/2018
16. The Rose Empire Corp. dba Flyboy Water Sports	6/14/2018 SLR-2018-X-157	Banana Boat & Snorkeling	Outer Cove Marina	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved- 6/21/2018
17. The Rose Empire Corp. dba Power Dive Saipan	6/14/2018 SLR-2018-X-156	Seawalker & SCUBA Diving	Outer Cove Marina	Motorized Marine Sports	Approved- 6/21/2018
18. D'Alma Incorporation dba SCUBA Center Diveman	6/14/2018 S/TLR-2018-X-152	SCUBA Diving & Snorkeling	All Saipan & Tinian Dive Sites	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Approved- 6/21/2018

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*). The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Northern Marianas College
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan MP 96950
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Website: <http://www.marianas.edu>

Re-Announcement (Amendment) No. 17-044
Position Title: Specialty Instructor-Associate Professor, Nursing
Department: Nursing
Pay Level & Step: 27/03, 29-30/01
Annual Salary: \$46,265.08 - \$50,040.31
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: February 09, 2018
Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement (Amendment) No. 18-004
Position Title: Counselor, International Student Success
Department: Learning Support Services
Pay Level & Step: 21/Steps 01-02
Annual Salary: \$41,180.02 - \$42,621.32
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: February 02, 2018
Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement (Amendment IV)
Position Title: Program Lead: Extension & Research Communications
Department: Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services (CREES)
Pay Level & Step: 33/01 – 36/02
Annual Salary: \$44,640.09 - \$53,332.49
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: February 27, 2018
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-024
Position Title: Director, Human Resources
Department: Human Resources
Pay Level & Step: X-01/01-02
Annual Salary: \$55,000.00 - \$56,925.00
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 25, 2018
Closing Date: July 05, 2018 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-021
Position Title: Scientist (Horticulture/Crop)
Department: Cooperative Research, Extension & Education Services (CREES)
Pay Level & Step: 36/01-02
Annual Salary: \$51,528.98 - \$53,332.49
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 13, 2018
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-018
Position Title: Instructor-Associate Professor, Business (Computer Applications)
Department: School of Business
Pay Level & Step: 27, 29-30/01
Annual Salary: \$43,188.94 - \$50,040.31
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 20, 2018
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 18-019
Position Title: Instructor-Associate Professor, Science
Department: Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics
Pay Level & Step: 27, 29-30/01
Annual Salary: \$43,188.94 - \$50,040.31
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 29, 2018
Closing Date: July 09, 2018 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-041
Position Title: Director of Marketing & Communications
Department: Administration & Advancement
Pay Level & Step: 25/01-04
Annual Salary: \$49,864.16 - \$55,285.29
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 20, 2018
Closing Date: Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:40 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Business

US-China trade war elevates the risks to the global economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The trade war that erupted Friday between the U.S. and China carries a major risk of escalation that could weaken investment, depress spending, unsettle financial markets and slow the global economy.

The opening shots were fired just after midnight, when the Trump administration imposed a 25 percent tariff on \$34 billion of imports from China, and Beijing promptly retaliated with duties on an equal amount of American products. It accused the U.S. of igniting “the biggest trade war in economic history.”

Because of this first round of hostilities, American businesses and, ultimately, consumers could end up paying more for such Chinese-made products as construction equipment and other machinery. And American suppliers of soybeans, pork and whiskey could lose their competitive edge in China.

These initial tariffs are unlikely to inflict serious harm to the world's two biggest economies. Gregory Daco, head of U.S. economics at Oxford Economics, has calculated that they would pare growth in both countries by no more than 0.2 percent through 2020.

But the conflict could soon escalate. President Donald Trump, who has boasted that winning a trade war is easy, has said he is prepared to impose tariffs on up to \$550 billion in Chinese imports—a figure that exceeds the \$506 billion in goods that China

shipped to the U.S. last year.

Escalating tariffs are likely to slow business investment as companies wait to see whether the administration can reach a truce with Beijing. Some employers will probably put hiring on hold until the picture becomes clearer. The damage could risk undoing some of the economic benefits of last year's tax cuts.

“Trade disruption is the greatest threat to global growth,” said Dec Mullarkey, managing director of investment strategies at Sun Life Investment Management. “The direct effects will be amplified as business confidence drops and investment decisions are delayed. Markets are still hoping that the key players return to the negotiation table.”

The root of the conflict is the Trump administration's assertion that China has long used predatory tactics in a drive to supplant America's technological supremacy. Those tactics include cyber-theft as well as forcing companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to China's market. Trump's tariffs are meant to press Beijing to change its ways.

The rift with China is the most consequential trade conflict the administration has provoked. But it's hardly the only one.

Trump is also sparring with the European Union over his threat to tax auto imports and with Canada and Mexico over his push to rewrite the North American trade pact. And he has subjected most of Ameri-

Chinese premier praises EU, says free trade must be upheld

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)—Free trade and international cooperation must be upheld to avoid slowing down the global economy, the Chinese premier told peers from central and eastern Europe Saturday.

Premier Li Keqiang also praised the European Union, calling the 28-member bloc an “indispensable force” and important for global peace, stability and prosperity.

Li, China's No. 2 leader behind President Xi Jinping, attended a gathering in Bulgaria's capital, Sofia, with government leaders from 16 European countries amid escalating trade battles between the United States and China.

The U.S. imposed 25 percent duties Friday on \$34 billion worth of imports from China. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said “retaliatory tariffs” also took effect, without offering more details.

The 16+1 meeting of the

central and eastern European nations and China is part of China's \$900 billion “New Silk Road” plan to boost its influence in Europe through investments and closer economic links.

“We need to uphold multilateralism, we need to uphold free trade ... and work together to prevent a slowdown of the global economic recovery,” Li said.

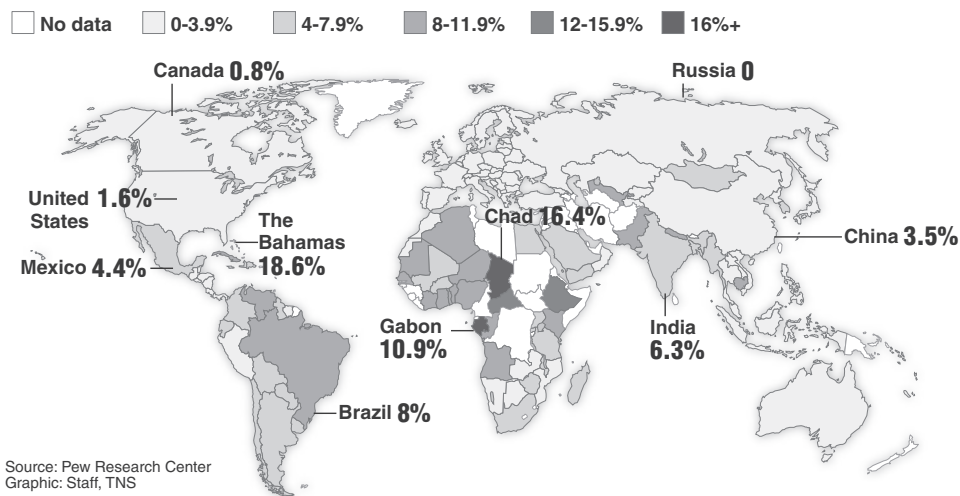
Countries around the world were affected by the global financial crisis that started in 2008 and which led to banking crises and the so-called “Great Recession,” especially in the U.S. and Europe, where growth has improved over the past few years.

China's efforts to increase its economic and financial influence in the European Union, which include the financing and construction of new roads, rail lines and ports, have been met with concern by Brussels. EU

Globally, U.S. tariffs among the lowest

The Trump administration applied 25% levies on \$34 billion of Chinese products, mostly machinery and industrial parts, Friday. This marks a distinct break from decades of U.S. trade policy, which long has generally favored lower tariffs and fewer restrictions on the movement of goods and services across international borders.

Tariff rate, applied, weighted mean, all products (2016)



ca's trading partners to tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Many caught in the initial line of fire—U.S. farmers absorbing tariffs on their exports to China, for instance—are fearful. The price of soybeans has plunged 13 percent over the past month on fears that Chinese tariffs will cut off American farmers from China, which buys about 60 percent of their soybean exports.

“For soybean producers like me, this is a direct financial hit,” said Brent Bible, a soy and corn producer in Romney, Indiana. “These tariffs could mean the difference between a profit and a loss for an entire year's worth of work out in the field, and that's only in the near term.”

Christine LoCascio, an executive at the Distilled Spirits

Council, said she fears China's tariffs on U.S. whiskey will “put the brakes on an American success story” of rising exports of U.S. spirits.

Even before the first shots, the prospect of a trade war was worrying investors. The Dow Jones industrial average has shed hundreds of points since June 11. But the risks are now priced into the market, and the Dow actually rose nearly 100 points Friday to 24,456.48.

China's currency, the yuan, has dropped 3.5 percent against the dollar over the past month, giving Chinese companies a price edge over their U.S. competition. The drop might reflect a deliberate devaluation by Beijing to signal

its “displeasure over the state of trade negotiations,” according to a report from the Institute of International Finance, a banking trade group.

The Trump administration sought to limit the impact of the tariffs on U.S. households by targeting Chinese industrial goods, not consumer products, for the first round of tariffs.

But that step raises costs for U.S. companies that rely on Chinese-made machinery or components. And it could force them to pass those higher costs on to their business customers and, eventually, to consumers.

If you like Chick-fil-A sandwiches, for instance, you may feel the effects. Charlie

EPA's relief and worries after scandal-plagued chief's exit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taking over from an ambitious predecessor known for seeking out the rich, powerful and conservative, the Environmental Protection Agency's newly named acting chief has promised to reach out to anxious staffers throughout the demoralized agency and to lawmakers of both political parties.

By late afternoon Friday, there had been no public comment from either Scott Pruitt, whose resignation President Donald Trump announced Thursday after months of Pruitt's ethics scandals, or Andrew Wheeler, the Washington veteran and former coal lobbyist who Trump announced as the agency's acting head.

In an email sent out to EPA staffers Thursday night and obtained by the Associated Press, Wheeler said he was honored to take temporary leadership of the agency where he started his Washington career in the early 1990s, as an EPA employee

dealing with toxic substances and other matters. “I look forward to working hard alongside all of you,” Wheeler wrote agency employees.

Pruitt, Oklahoma's attorney general at the time of his EPA appointment, had embraced the perks of office in Washington. He instituted unusual and costly round-the-clock protection for himself, flew premium class to Europe and North Africa, and directed agency staffers to help seek housing for his family, high-dollar employment for his wife, and pleasures such as luxury lotion and tickets to top sporting events.

Trump had praised Pruitt for his regulation-trimming ways at EPA. On Thursday, however, Trump said Pruitt himself had concluded the EPA chief's ethics scandals were too much of a distraction and was stepping down.

Some EPA staffers linked to Pruitt's tumultuous 17-month tenure feared for their jobs Friday, former top staffers under Pruitt said. That

Souhrada of the North American Food Equipment Manufacturers said the tariffs could raise the cost of a kind of pressure cooker Chick-fil-A uses.

The administration has placed “these import taxes squarely on the shoulders of manufacturers and, by extension, consumers,” Souhrada said.

One way the tariffs will squeeze farmers, landscapers and construction firms is by raising the price of excavators and loaders made by Bobcat, which uses attachments imported from China. U.S. suppliers rarely make these attachments, so the company must import them.

Jason Mayberry, Bobcat's assistant general counsel, said in a filing submitted to the U.S. Trade Representative's office that the company would have to raise prices to offset the tariff. Bobcat's raw material costs have also risen because of the administration's steel and aluminum tariffs.

The Federal Reserve is picking up signs that the trade war is causing businesses to rethink investment plans. In the minutes from its June meeting, the Fed noted that some companies have delayed or reduced plans to buy or upgrade equipment.

And if Trump extends the tariffs to up to \$550 billion in Chinese imports, consumers won't be able to avoid getting caught in the crossfire: The taxes would hit products like televisions and cellphones.

included the roughly 20 members of a security detail Pruitt's EPA had created to guard him around the clock.

The guards were originally trained for investigating environmental crimes. The agency's security officials are expected to decide what level of protection Wheeler needs.

“There's definitely that fear” of a shake-up among Pruitt's remaining political appointees, said Kevin Chmielewski, the former deputy chief of staff who fell out of favor with Pruitt after questioning spending. “This is the follow-up stories, the people's lives he's affected, going down to the agents and everyone else.”

Some scientists and other career staffers, who learned of Pruitt's departure through news and social media on Thursday, quietly expressed relief, Elizabeth Southerland, who quit last year as the science director at the agency's Office of Water, said after hearing Thursday and Friday from many still at the agency.

Nation

Trump lawyers call Comey 'Machiavellian' in note to Mueller

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lawyers for President Donald Trump unleashed a blistering attack on former FBI Director James Comey in a confidential memo last year to the special counsel, casting him as “Machiavellian,” dishonest and “unbounded by law and regulation” as they sought to undermine the credibility of a law enforcement leader they see as a critical witness against the president.

The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, underscores the intense effort by Trump’s legal team over the last year to tarnish Comey’s reputation and pit the president’s word against that of the former FBI director. Comey’s firing in May 2017 helped set in motion the appointment of special counsel Robert Mueller, and one-on-one conversations with Trump that Comey documented in a series of memos helped form the basis of Mueller’s inquiry into whether the president obstructed justice.

The June 27, 2017, letter was written by Marc Kasowitz, then the president’s lead lawyer, as Mueller and his team were in the early stages of their investigation into Trump associates and as they had begun examining whether the president, by fir-



AP
President Donald Trump addresses the audience at a rally at the Four Seasons Arena at Montana ExpoPark, Thursday, July 5, 2018, in Great Falls, Mont., in support of Rep. Greg Gianforte, R-Mont., and GOP Senate candidate Matt Rosendale.

ing Comey, had sought to stymie an FBI investigation into the Trump campaign’s ties to Russia. The White House initially pointed as justification for the firing to a Justice Department memo that faulted Comey for his handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation, though Trump later said that “this Russia thing” was on his mind when he

made the move.

It’s not clear to what extent, if any, the attacks on Comey have resonated with Mueller’s team, which is broadly investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election and continues to seek an interview with the president to assess whether he had a corrupt intent when he fired the FBI director. And even in the face

of withering criticism, Comey has been largely consistent in his telling of his interactions with Trump in his memos, his book and press interviews he’s given in recent months.

The 13-page document provides a window into the

formation of a legal strategy that remains in use today by Trump’s lawyers—to discredit Comey’s value as a witness. It could have new relevance in the aftermath of a Justice Department inspector general report that criticized Comey for

departing from protocol in the Clinton investigation.

The letter aims to identify for Mueller what the lawyers believe are grievous errors both in how Comey handled the Clinton investigation and in his early, and limited, encounters with the president. In it, Kasowitz argues that Comey cannot be trusted as a witness because he repeatedly embellished his testimony before Congress, put his “own personal interests and emotions” above FBI protocol and left a cloud of undue suspicion above the president’s head.

“Over the last year, Mr. Comey has engaged in a pattern of calculated unilateral action unbounded by governing law, regulation and practice, and plainly motivated by personal and political self-interest,” wrote Kasowitz, who has since stepped aside as lead lawyer.

Kids as young as 1 in US court, awaiting reunion with family

PHOENIX (AP)—The 1-year-old boy in a green button-up shirt drank milk from a bottle, played with a small purple ball that lit up when it hit the ground and occasionally asked for “agua.”

Then it was the child’s turn for his court appearance before a Phoenix immigration judge, who could hardly contain his unease with the situation during the portion of the hearing where he asks immigrant defendants whether they understand the proceedings.

“I’m embarrassed to ask it, because I don’t know who you would explain it to, unless you think that a 1-year-old could learn immigration law,” Judge John W. Richardson told the lawyer representing the 1-year-old boy.

The boy is one of hundreds of children who need to be reunited with their parents after being separated at the border, many of them split from mothers and fathers as a result of the Trump administration’s “zero-tolerance policy.” The separations have become an embarrassment to the administration as stories of crying children separated

from mothers and kept apart for weeks on end dominated the news in recent weeks.

Critics have also seized on the nation’s immigration court system that requires children—some still in diapers—to have appearances before judges and go through deportation proceedings while separated from their parents. Such children don’t have a right to a court-appointed attorney, and 90 percent of kids without a lawyer are returned to their home countries, according to Kids in Need of Defense, a group that provides legal representation.

In Phoenix on Friday, the Honduran boy named Johan waited over an hour to see the judge. His attorney told Richardson that the boy’s father had brought him to the U.S. but that they had been separated, although it’s unclear when. He said the father, who was now in Honduras, was removed from the country under false pretenses that he would be able to leave with his son.

For a while, the child wore dress shoes, but later he was

in just socks as he waited to see the judge. He was silent and calm for most of the hearing, though he cried hysterically afterward for the few seconds that a worker handed him to another person while she gathered his diaper bag. He is in the custody of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department in Arizona.

Richardson said the boy’s case raised red flags over a looming court-ordered deadline to reunite small children with their families. A federal judge in San Diego gave the agency until next Tuesday to reunite kids under 5 with their parents and until July 26 for all others.

Richardson repeatedly told the Immigration and Customs Enforcement attorney who was acting as the prosecutor that he should make note of the cases involving young children because of the government’s obligation to meet the reunification deadline. The attorney said he wasn’t familiar with that deadline and that a different department within ICE handled such matters.

Trump administration takes another swipe at ‘Obamacare’

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration said Saturday it’s freezing payments under an “Obamacare” program that protects insurers with sicker patients from financial losses, a move expected to add to premium increases next year.

At stake are billions in payments to insurers with sicker customers.

In a weekend announcement, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said the administration is acting because of conflicting court ruling in lawsuits filed by some smaller insurers who question whether they are being fairly treated under the program.

The so-called “risk adjustment” program takes payments from insurers with healthier customers and redistributes that money to companies with sicker enrollees. Payments for 2017 are \$10.4 billion. No taxpayer subsidies are involved.

The idea behind the program is to remove the financial incentive for insurers to “cherry pick” healthier customers. The government uses a similar approach with Medicare private insurance plans and the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Major insurer groups said Saturday the administration’s action interferes with a program that’s working well.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, whose members are a mainstay of Affordable Care Act coverage said it was “extremely disappointed” with the administration’s action.

The Trump administration’s move “will significantly increase 2019 premiums for millions of individuals and small business owners and could result in far fewer health plan choices,” association president Scott Serota said in a statement. “It will undermine Americans’ access to affordable coverage, particularly those who need medical care the most.”

Serota noted that the payments are required by law, and said he believes the administration has the legal authority to continue making them despite the court cases. He warned of “turmoil” as insurers finalize their rates for 2019.

America’s Health Insurance Plans, the main health insurance industry trade group, said in a statement that it is “very discouraged” by the Trump administration’s decision to freeze payments.

“Costs for taxpayers will rise as the federal government

spends more on premium subsidies,” the group said.

Rumors that the Trump administration would freeze payments were circulating late last week. But the Saturday announcement via email was unusual for such a major step.

The administration argued in its announcement that its hands were tied by conflicting court rulings in New Mexico and Massachusetts.

Medicare and Medicaid Administrator Seema Verma said the Trump administration was disappointed by a New Mexico court ruling that questioned the workings of the risk program for insurers.

The administration “has asked the court to reconsider its ruling, and hopes for a prompt resolution that allows (the government) to prevent more adverse impacts on Americans who receive their insurance in the individual and small group markets,” she said.

More than 10 million people currently buy individual health insurance plans through HealthCare.gov and state insurance marketplaces. The vast majority of those customers receive taxpayer subsidies under the Obama-era health law and would be shielded from premium increases next year.

Asia

Operation to rescue Thai boys in flooded cave starts

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP)—The operation has begun to rescue 12 boys and their soccer coach who will need to dive out of the flooded Thai cave where they have been trapped for more than two weeks, with officials saying Sunday morning that “today is D-Day.”

Chiang Rai acting Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said 13 foreign and five Thai divers were taking part in the rescue and two divers will accompany each boy as they are gradually extracted. The operation began at 10 a.m. and he said it would take at least 11 hours for the first person to be rescued.

The entire operation to get all 13 out of the cave could last 2-4 days, depending on weather and water conditions, said army Maj. Gen. Chalongsai Chaiyakam.

The only way to bring them out of Tham Luang Nang Non in Chiang Rai province is by navigating dark and tight passageways filled with muddy water and strong currents, as well as oxygen-depleted air. A former Thai navy SEAL passed out making the dive Friday and died.

Experienced cave rescue experts consider an underwater escape a last resort, especially with people untrained in diving, as the boys are. The path out is considered espe-



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News service

cially complicated because of twists and turns in narrow flooded passages.

But the governor supervising the mission said earlier that mild weather and falling water levels over the last few days had created optimal conditions for an underwater evacuation that won't last if it rains again.

Before announcing that the rescue was underway, authorities ordered the throngs of media that have gathered at the cave from around the world to leave.

The boys, ages 11-16, and their 25-year-old coach became stranded when they went exploring in the cave after a practice game June



AP
Thai police stand guard near a cave where 12 boys and their soccer coach have been trapped since June 23, in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai province, in northern Thailand Sunday, July 8, 2018.

23. Monsoon flooding cut off their escape and prevented rescuers from finding them for almost 10 days.

Authorities had said that incoming monsoon rains that could send water levels in the cave rising, coupled with falling oxygen levels in the enclosed space, added to the ur-

gency of getting those trapped out. Earlier efforts to pump out water from the cave have been set back every time there has been a heavy downpour.

Narongsak said Saturday that experts told him water from new rain could shrink the unflooded space where the boys are sheltering to just 10 square

meters (108 square feet).

“I confirm that we are at war with water and time from the first day up to today,” he said Saturday. “Finding the boys doesn’t mean we’ve finished our mission. It is only a small battle we’ve won, but the war has not ended. The war ends when we win all three

battles—the battles to search, rescue and send them home.”

The boys sounded calm and reassuring in handwritten notes to their families that were made public Saturday. The notes were sent out with divers who made an 11-hour, back-and-forth journey to act as postmen.

After talks, NKorea accuses US of ‘gangster-like’ demands

TOKYO (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has delivered a dose of harsh reality to Donald Trump, bashing hopes for a quick denuclearization deal in a pointed rebuke to the president’s top envoy while accusing the U.S. of making “gangster-like” demands.

After the historic U.S.-North Korea summit in Singapore, Trump declared the North was no longer a threat and would hand over the remains of Americans killed during the Korean War. Now, three weeks later, the two sides were still at odds on all issues, including exactly what denuclearization means and how it might be verified, after a third visit to Pyongyang by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. And, the promised remains have yet to be delivered.

Pompeo wrapped up two days of talks in the North Korean capital on Saturday on an optimistic note even without meeting Kim Jong Un, as he had on his previous two trips. He said his discussions had been pro-

ductive and conducted in good faith, but he allowed that much more work needed to be done. And, he and other U.S. officials said the two countries, still technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War, had set up working groups to deal with details of an agreement.

Pompeo said he had won commitments for new discussions on denuclearization and announced a Thursday meeting between U.S. and North Korean military officials on the repatriation of the remains. But in a harsh response issued just hours after Pompeo arrived in Tokyo, the North blasted the discussions, saying the visit had been “regrettable” and that Washington’s “gangster-like” demands were aimed at forcing it to abandon nuclear weapons.

In a statement carried by the North’s official Korean Central News Agency, the foreign ministry said the outcome of Pompeo’s talks with senior official Kim Yong Chol was “very concerning” because it has led to a “dangerous phase

that might rattle our willingness for denuclearization that had been firm.”

“We had expected that the U.S. side would offer constructive measures that would help build trust based on the spirit of the leaders’ summit ... we were also thinking about providing reciprocal measures,” it said. “However, the attitude and stance the United States showed in the first high-level meeting (between the countries) was no doubt regrettable. Our expectations and hopes were so naive it could be called foolish.”

It said the North had raised the issue of formally ending the Korean War, which concluded with an armistice and not a peace treaty, but the U.S. came up with a variety of “conditions and excuses” to delay a declaration. It downplayed the significance of the United States suspending its military exercises with South Korea, something trumpeted by Trump after the summit as a success, by saying it made a larger concession by blowing up the tunnels at a nuclear test site.

Heartbreaking scenes described in Thai boat sinking; 41 dead

PHUKET, Thailand (AP)—Divers who entered the wreck of a tour boat that sank in a storm off the southern Thai resort island of Phuket described heartbreaking scenes of bodies of children found in the arms of their mothers, as the search continued Saturday for 15 mostly Chinese tourists missing in a disaster that has left dozens dead.

The death toll from Thursday’s tragedy climbed to 41, in Thailand’s biggest tourist-related disaster in years. It was not clear how many of the dead and missing were Chinese. In announcing a previous death toll of 33, authorities said all of those victims were Chinese.

“It’s very difficult to see ... it’s traumatic, it’s tragic but the best thing to do, our job as divers, is to bring back the bodies to their families,” diver Philip Entremont told reporters before resuming the search Saturday.

The boat, with 105 people, including 93 tourists, capsized and sank after it was hit by 5-meter (16-foot) waves.

The death toll jumped Friday after the navy sent divers

to the wreck. In images shortly after the sinking, rescued people sat in large rubber life rafts surrounded by churning seas.

Phuket Gov. Norraphat Plodthong announced at a news conference on Saturday evening that the death toll had climbed to 41, with 15 missing.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the leader of Thailand’s military government, expressed his “sympathies and deepest condolences” to the families of the dead. The government will “exert all efforts to find those still missing and provide support to all survivors of this tragic event,” he said in a statement.

Reports in Thai media said police charged the owner and captain of the stricken ship with carelessness causing death and injury.

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for all-out search and rescue efforts, telling the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese diplomats in Thailand to take greater measures, and also urging Thai authorities to spare no efforts.

Chinese Ambassador Lyu Jian had an “emergency con-

versation” by phone with Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak, the Chinese Embassy said in a statement. It quoted the envoy calling on Thailand to quickly mobilize an intensive search for the missing and “to tend and make appropriate arrangements for the rescued Chinese tourists, treat and cure the injured and receive family members of the Chinese tourists involved.”

Lyu said it hoped the cause of the capsizing would be quickly ascertained and asked Somkid to have the relevant Thai agencies closely cooperate with China on the matter.

Fatal accidents among foreign tourists at Thai beaches are not unusual, but normally involve drownings in unsafe swimming areas or accidents involving smaller boats.

Thai officials were rushing to cope with some of the logistics of the aftermath of the sinking.

At the request of Phuket’s governor, the Phuket Tourist Association was seeking 80 volunteer Chinese language translators to assist the outgoing Chinese passengers at the provincial airport.

World

Syrian troops celebrate recapture of Jordan border crossing

NASEEB, Syria (AP)—Syrian soldiers fanned out across towns and villages in southern Syria Saturday, celebrating the recapture of the main border crossing with Jordan by raising portraits of President Bashar Assad and tearing down rebel flags.

Troops captured the Naseeb border crossing a day earlier following a crushing two-week military offensive, after rebels announced they had reached an agreement with Russian mediators to end the violence in the southern province of Daraa and surrender the crossing.

Some flashed victory signs and pumped fists in the air as they chanted pro-Assad slogans. A soldier could be seen hoisting the Syrian flag atop a watchtower. Another tore down the rebel flag from a building.

One officer said that troops have taken up positions along the border with Jordan and are blocking illegal crossing points.

"We have ended their existence," he said of the rebels. "They have no future anymore, God willing."

The crossing was once a bustling and vital artery through which Syria exported goods to Jordan and from there on to oil-rich Gulf countries. Rebels seized it in 2015,



This frame grab from video provided on Saturday, July 7, 2018 by the government-controlled Syrian Central Military Media, shows a convoy of Syrian military vehicles near the Naseeb border crossing with Jordan, in the southern province of Daraa, Syria.

though the U.S. government negotiated a de-escalation agreement for southern Syria last year, it has remained silent as Assad's forces marched onto Daraa in the past two weeks in a crushing assault that displaced more than 330,000 people.

State-run news agency SANA said the army deployed at the crossing after combing and clearing it of the remnants of "terrorist groups." It said Syrian army units have also established control over the town of Nuaima in the past 24 hours.

The government's offensive to retake Daraa and the nearby Quneitra region on the frontier near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights began on June 19, and is now expected to turn more forcefully toward retaking Quneitra, potentially setting up a clash between Israel and Hezbollah and Iran unless they agree to stay away from the area as Israel demands.

The assault has forced hundreds of thousands to flee toward the sealed Jordanian border and the frontier near the Golan in one of the largest displacements in the seven-year Syrian conflict. Dozens have been killed.

severing that lifeline and disrupting a key overland trade route also for Jordan

An Associated Press journalist escorted by the Syrian army on Saturday saw troops setting up checkpoints along the largely deserted road leading up to the crossing, full of potholes from shelling; they removed sand barriers and burnt out cars by its side.

Heavy white smoke rose from a smoldering match

factory in the free zone next to the crossing. Government buildings also bore the marks of fighting and shelling. Some were partially burned, windows were broken and looting appeared to have been pervasive.

Russian military police were seen taking up positions on both sides of the border.

Syrian government forces now control all the towns and villages on the eastern side of

Daraa province, including the villages of Nuaima and Saida, which sits 10 kilometers ahead of the Naseeb crossing and links the eastern and western sides of Daraa.

In one village, Saida, there were few residents two days after Syrian soldiers captured it from the rebels. Broken glass littered streets lined with bombed out houses.

"They (rebels) destroyed the town, God will punish them," said a 50-year-old villager who returned to check on her home.

The recapture of Naseeb in Daraa marks the return of Assad's forces to the province where the uprising against

him began seven years ago, following successive military victories across most of the country with the help of powerful allies Russia and Iran.

Weakened by a crushing government offensive backed by Russia and abandoned by their U.S. allies, rebels in southern Syria found themselves compelled to accept yet another humiliating surrender deal that would see opposition fighters transported by buses to areas held by rebels in the country's north.

The rebels in southern Syria once received significant backing and support from the U.S. that has and all but dried up over the past few years. Al-

Pope denounces 'murderous indifference' by powers in Mideast

BARI, Italy (AP)—Pope Francis on Saturday denounced the "murderous indifference" that has allowed violence to consume the Middle East and drive tens of thousands of Christians from their homes, calling out global powers for seeking power and profit at the expense of the region's people during a remarkable gathering of Orthodox patriarchs and Catholic leaders.

Francis hosted the day-long ecumenical service in the Adriatic port city of Bari, considered a religious bridge between East and West and home to the relics of St. Nicholas, an important saint in the Orthodox Christian world.

Francis greeted the patriarchs outside the Basilica of St. Nicholas and together they descended to the crypt to pray before the relics and light a flame for peace symbolizing the unity of Christians divided by over 1,000 years of schism.

"We commit ourselves to walking, praying and working together, in the hope that the art of encounter will prevail over strategies of conflict," Francis said at the end of the encounter as children released doves of peace.

For years, the Vatican has voiced concern about the plight of Christians driven from Mideast communities that date to the time of Christ. Just last week, Francis decried intensified attacks in southern Syria that killed scores of people and forced tens of thousands to flee.

The Vatican has also long sought an internationally guaranteed status for Jerusalem that safeguards its sacred character for Jews, Muslims and Christians, and has responded to the U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital by urging respect for the status quo of the holy city.

Francis denounced the "occupation" of Mideast lands, and renewed his appeal for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"So many conflicts have been stoked too by forms of fundamentalism and fanaticism that, under the guise of religion, have profaned God's name - which is peace - and persecuted age-old neighbors," he said.

Denouncing the weapons trade that fuels the region's wars, he urged global powers to stop their "thirst for profit

that surreptitiously exploits oil and gas fields without regard for our common home, with no scruples about the fact that the energy market now dictates the law of coexistence among peoples!"

The meeting was the first of its kind, gathering most of the Middle East's Orthodox patriarchs with the head of the 1.2-billion strong Catholic Church as well as Lutheran leaders and their Christian representatives in the Holy Land. After the public prayer on Bari's seafloor, the black-draped patriarchs and white-cassocked pope met in private inside the basilica and then lunched together, moving around Bari in a bus as if on a school field trip.

In his opening prayer, Francis said the Middle East represented the source of Christianity, where ancient Christian rites and heritage are preserved and where "our very souls are rooted."

And yet, in recent years the region has been "covered by dark clouds of war, violence and destruction, instances of occupation and varieties of fundamentalism, forced migration and neglect," he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran executes 8 over 2017 Islamic State attack on Tehran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran executed eight men convicted over the 2017 Islamic State attack on parliament and the shrine of the Islamic Republic's founding ayatollah, the bloodiest terror attack to strike Tehran in decades, authorities said Saturday. The June 7, 2017 attack has so far been the only assault by the Sunni extremists inside of Shiite Iran, which has been deeply involved in the wars in Iraq and Syria where the militants once held vast territory. IS has since have been beaten back by Iranian-aided Shiite militias in Iraq, as well as by a U.S.-led coalition operating in both countries, though Iran has made other arrests involving the group in the time since. The judiciary's official Mizan news agency announced the executions Saturday morning, but did not say when or where they took place. The head of Tehran's Justice Department, Gholamhossein Esmaili, told Iranian state television that authorities conducted the executions days earlier but chose not to immediately announce them, likely as a security measure. Executions in Iran are carried out by hangings.

4 hospitalized after Pamplona's running of the bulls

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP)—A man who was

gored and three others who were trampled in the first running of the bulls of this year's San Fermin festival were hospitalized Saturday, officials in the Spanish city of Pamplona said. Among those receiving medical treatment is a 20-year-old Canadian man with mild traumatic injuries, the officials from the Navarra regional government said in a statement. The other men are of Spanish nationality and include a 38-year-old who was goled and a 40-year-old who sustained serious traumatic injuries. Overnight rain had made the route's already-narrow cobbled streets more slippery than usual, adding to the danger in the traditional race.

Iran summons Dutch envoy over expulsion of 2 diplomats

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's state-run IRNA news agency is reporting that the country's foreign ministry has summoned its Dutch ambassador to Tehran over the Netherlands' expulsion of two Iranian diplomats. The Saturday report quotes the ministry's spokesman, Bahram Ghasemi, as saying the "unfriendly measure" by Dutch government was "irrational and illegal" and that Iran reserved the right to reciprocate. On Friday, the Dutch secret service AIVD announced that the Netherlands had expelled two staff members of the Iranian embassy, without providing further information.

Health & Wellness

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9 ways to get fit on the cheap

By JESSICA YADEGARAN
CONTRA COSTA TIMES

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — Can't afford a gym membership? Makes sense, given the financial climate and the need to tighten our belts. But if you want to tighten that belt holding up your jeans, money is no excuse. There are plenty of ways to work out and get in shape at little or no cost.

"Weight loss starts in your mind, and this has nothing to do with money," says Benjamin Jackson, a certified health fitness instructor and president of New Direction Personal Fitness and Sports Performance in Danville, Calif. "You just have to be mentally and internally motivated."

Start by setting specific goals, and realize that there is a psychology behind your "number," Jackson explains. "It's not necessary that you want to lose 30 pounds but that you want to fit into a certain pair of jeans or be as successful with your body and health as you are in other parts of your life," he says.

Below, find nine fabulous ways to get fit on the cheap. Some are courtesy of Jackson. Others were culled from our own nifty research. Yes, it's that easy.

1 TV as trainer. If you subscribe to digital cable or get On Demand channels, you may have access to FitTV, which features round-the-clock exercise programming. Tighten your tummy with the belly-dancing show "Shimmy." Get toned with world-renowned trainer Gilad Janklowicz on "It's Body Sculpt with Gilad Janklowicz." Or switch it up with "In Shape with Sharon Mann," the Canadian Aerobics Champion.

2 Squats are free. Jackson is particularly fond of incorporating them into real-life moving patterns. Try what he calls the "live lift" the next time you're picking up your kids' toys or grabbing that pen off the office floor. Simply bend from the hips—not from the knees—while keeping your spine straight and stable. This strengthens the legs and lower back and reduces tension in neck and upper shoulders, Jackson says.

3 Find a buddy. Research has proved that people are more likely to exercise when they have someone to do it with, Jackson says. So, grab a friend or family member before or after dinner. Then walk. Jog. Bike. Swim. Find a form of exercise and a time that works and stick with it. In the beginning, commit to 30 minutes of exercise two or three days a week. Jackson says dogs make the best exercise partners in the world. "If you don't have one, borrow a friend's."

4 One-legged moves. You don't need a gym or even hand weights to see results from resistance training. Using your body weight is usually more than enough, Jackson says. Challenge yourself by working one at a time. Sit in a chair and stand back up on one leg. "We spend most of our life on one leg, whether we're walking or sleeping, so it's a great exercise," he says. Jackson recommends three sets of 10 repetitions three times a week. The exercise improves balance and strength, but should be avoided if you have knee problems.

5 YouFit. Did you know you could be getting in shape while watching YouTube? No, not with those quirky Croatian music videos. A search of "fitness" yields 28,000 results, including salsa dancing workouts, abdominal workouts by Ford models and a series of nine-minute workout videos catered to women and weights. Search "running tips" and you'll get a two-minute session on how to warm up for a jog. It's all there, you just have to cater the search to your liking.

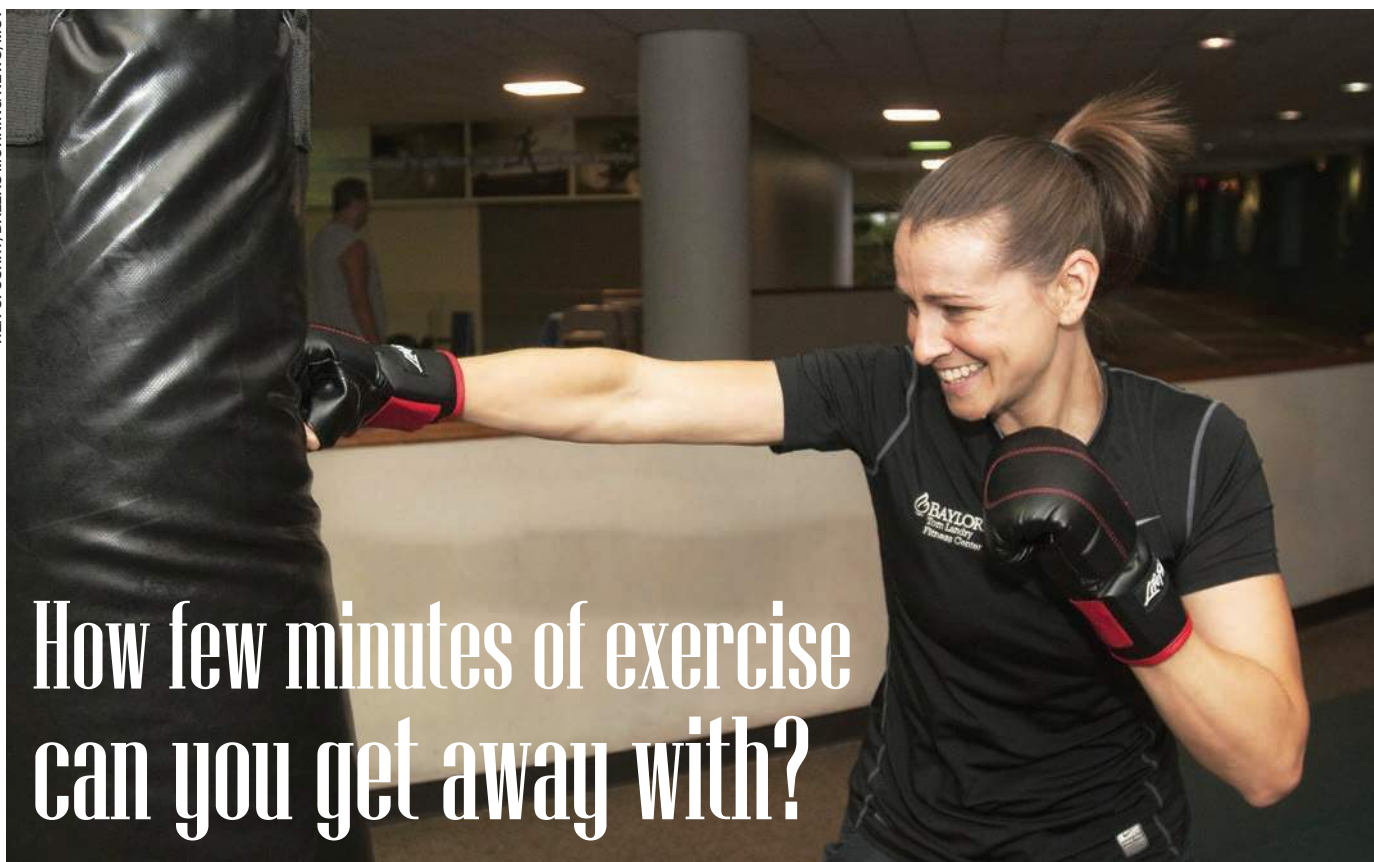
6 Take the stairs. Let's face it, they're all around you—at the mall, the library, and all parking structures. So skip the elevator and channel your inner Rocky. Don't forget to get those knees up high. If you're lucky enough to have stairs at your home, double up by working out your triceps. Sit at the edge of a stair, put your hands, palm-down, on either side of you and lift yourself up and down in small pulsing motions.

7 Get toned with iTunes. If you have an iPod, you can download hundreds of fitness-related podcasts. Unlike your flat screen, however, it goes with you—to the park, the beach or around the neighborhood.

8 Stretch. Yes, improving flexibility aids in weight loss. Tight muscles decrease blood flow, which can slow down fat elimination, Jackson says. "It's not a ton of fat, but it makes a difference." That said, Jackson believes stretching loose muscles is a waste of time. Instead, stretch an area that is tight or that gets overlooked. For most people, that's the minor pectoral muscles and the hamstrings.

9 Look around. Your environment—your house, your community—is full of exercise tools and resources. The track at the nearby high school. Walking and hiking trails. Use what you have instead of focusing on what you don't have. "If you don't have a treadmill, I guarantee you have a sidewalk," Jackson says. "If you don't have running shoes, you have a decent pair of walking shoes." Don't own hand weights? Those paint cans in the garage make great ones, Jackson adds.

REX C. CURRY/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT



Kim Williams, a trainer at Baylor Tom Landry Fitness Center in Dallas, Texas, demonstrates her boxing technique on Friday, July 26, 2013.

By LESLIE BARKER
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

In the futuristic world of winsome dreams, cheeseburgers have single-digit calories; workouts, single-digit minutes.

Well, hold tight to your jet pack. The magic wand has been waved—not for cheeseburgers, but it seems so for workouts.

Cases in point:

Research published in the American College of Sports Medicine's Health & Fitness Journal touts the effectiveness of a strength-training workout using only body weight and lasting merely seven — albeit very uncomfortable — minutes.

A Norwegian study found that four minutes of high-intensity activity—heart rate at 90 percent of maximum capacity—shares similar benefits to four such efforts separated by three minutes of downtime.

The benefits of high-intensity training have been known for a while, experts tell us. But in our busy lives, new research on shorter and shorter workouts continues to tantalize, especially when compared with the 150 weekly minutes of exercise recommended by the ACSM.

Three months after "The Scientific 7-Minute Workout" story appeared in The New York Times magazine and its Well blog (wellblog.nytimes.com), it's still among the top five viewed stories on the newspaper's health website. Don't let the numbers fool you, experts caution. Caveats abound.

"What's important to remember is that there's no magic in any of this," says Allen Jackson, chairman of the department of Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation at the University of North Texas.

The point, he says, "is getting active, the muscle groups you're working, the specificity of training."

It's also the level of intensity, which, in order to make the exercises effective, has to be extreme. Four minutes at 90 percent of maximum heart rate is hardly casual.

"That's the highest range of intensity that the American College of Sports Medicine recommends," he says. "The highest! The highest! That's Michael Phelps!"

Benjamin Levine, medical director of

the Institute of Exercise and Environmental Medicine at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas, puts it this way:

"Here's the deal. We talk about exercise as medicine. Like any drug, exercise has a dose and a frequency. You can take a baby aspirin once a night or two to four times a day and get different effects.

"Exercise is the same way. Different types of exercise probably affect different systems in different ways."

Working out for the 150 recommended minutes spread over a week, for example, burns more calories than the shorter bursts. That's something to keep in mind if you're exercising to lose or maintain weight.

The trick of intervals, Levine says, is that they "allow you to do something harder for a short period of time and allow you to build up to that level of intensity. If it's just longer periods of lower intensity you do,

Exercise is the same way. Different types of exercise probably affect different systems in different ways."

you'll never be able to do more."

Plus, the shorter bursts offer positive physiological results.

"When you do high-intensity aerobic intervals, you have a nice change in the heart," Levine says. "The heart muscle gets stronger, your muscles get stronger and better able to utilize oxygen."

Without a doubt, Jackson says, "short bouts of intensive activity have performance benefits and health and fitness benefits. It's true."

There are problems inherent with these, he cautions: a "potential risk for injury," or a "cardiovascular event" because the heart is working extremely hard.

"More moderate, longer-term exercise will have lower risk for injury. Joggers get injured. Walkers don't very much. The drawback? It takes more time, and time is definitely a barrier."

Still, saying a workout will last four minutes, or seven, or even shorter periods of time isn't entirely accurate, Levine says.

"Of course you have to warm up. There's recovery between," he says. "Nobody should think you put on your shoes and in four minutes you'll be finished."

Additionally, these aren't workouts just anyone can plunge right into, Jackson says.

"My concerns are about injury and about someone who really isn't ready to do a high-intensity exercise bout," he says. "You just can't start that off. It just isn't a good idea, especially when you talk about sedentary people going all-out."

Still, he and Levine do agree that shorter stints can have a place in a workout regimen.

"Four minutes," he says, "would be better than no minutes. But make sure you're ready to do those four minutes."

Here are some tips for incorporating single-digit workouts into your own regimen:

Go slowly. If you're just starting out, do each segment slower. As you build strength and confidence, pick up the speed.

Use it on a time-strapped day. "If you're normally a jogger but can't do your 30 minutes, and can get a hard run of four or five minutes in? Sure, do it," Jackson says. "Why not?"

Build in intensity. That's the principle of interval training, he says. "Swim two lengths easy, one hard." Or go at a normal pace on the elliptical trainer and then "for a few minutes now and then, go after it."

Try the four-minute-intervals-four-times workout. "We affectionately call it the 4-by-4," says Levine, who incorporates this at least weekly into his other training. For the four-minute segments, you go all-out. Between each, go slower—heart rate at 50 or 60 percent of maximum—for three minutes.

As each four-minute segment winds down, you should feel ready to stop, he says. At the end of the three-minute cool-downs, "you should be able to say, 'OK, I'm ready to go again.'"

"Patients with heart disease, with heart failure, with diabetes, with hypertension—everybody can do it. At the end of the day, it ends up being as hard as you can go for four minutes and keep going."

Life & Style

Judge weighs in on struggle surrounding Marvel's Stan Lee

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The private struggle over the care and legacy of Marvel mastermind Stan Lee played out in public Friday in a Los Angeles courtroom as attorneys working with his daughter shoved aside a previous lawyer and reasserted that they represent the 95-year-old Lee.

They were granted an elder-abuse restraining order against a former manager of Lee, just as the previous attorney had done, but only after a judge heard arguments about who should speak for Lee.

In the tiny courtroom packed with current and former attorneys and associates of Lee, lawyer Tom Lallas asked for a 30-day extension of the temporary restraining order he had received against

Lee's former manager Keya Morgan. Lallas has said in legal documents and news releases in recent weeks that he was representing Lee.

Superior Court Judge Pro Tem Ruth Klemm refused to consider the motion, saying it appeared Lallas was not employed by Lee.

"I'm only concerned who has authority to represent Mr. Lee," Klemm said.

Lee's daughter and only child, J.C. Lee, sat in court and smiled at her attorneys when the judge refused to recognize Lallas. Attorneys working with her had provided a signed declaration from Stan Lee denouncing Lallas.

The hearing came on the anniversary of the death of Joan Lee, Stan Lee's wife of nearly 70 years, whose absence left a void that has resulted in a struggle between would-be friends, attorneys, advisers and managers of the man whose co-creations include Spider-Man, the Incredible Hulk and the rest of the Avengers.

The latest Marvel film featuring his characters, "Ant-Man and The Wasp," was released Friday and is expected to top the weekend box office.

The new restraining order against Morgan, a 42-year-old movie producer who

had worked as Lee's manager and personal adviser, demands that he keep away from Lee, Lee's daughter and Lee's brother.

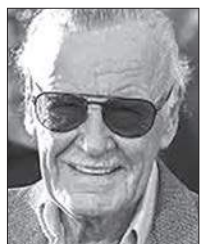
The request for the order alleges that Morgan has attempted to interfere with Lee's ability to contact caregivers, doctors and family members, has attempted to alienate Lee from his daughter, and is embezzling or misappropriating \$5 million worth of Lee's assets.

Lee's new lawyers said they would also work with police and prosecutors in an elder-abuse investigation involving Morgan.

Morgan told The Associated Press in a text message that he was in New York working on a film. He de-

clined to comment further on the advice of his lawyer but

has previously denied abusing Lee in any way.



Lee

Steve Ditko, Spider-Man co-creator, dies at age 90

NEW YORK (AP)—Steve Ditko, the Marvel Comics artist who gave the world the woven webs and soaring red-and-blue shape of Spider-Man and the otherworldly shimmer of Doctor Strange, has died, authorities said Friday. He was 90.

Ditko was found June 29 in his Manhattan apartment and was pronounced dead at the scene, police Lt. Paul Ng said. No further details were immediately available.

Ditko, along with writer Stan Lee, introduced the world to Peter Parker and his alter-ego Spider-Man in 1962 in an issue of "Amazing Fantasy." A year later, Ditko introduced the world to surgeon-turned-metaphysical superhero Doctor Strange.

Spider-Man would go on to become arguably the most indispensable and recognizable character in the Marvel universe, and Doctor Strange a member of its permanent pantheon. The adventures of both have been turned into blockbuster films, and both had essential roles in the recent "Avengers: Infinity War."

"Today, the Marvel family mourns the loss of Steve Ditko," said Dan Buckley, president of Marvel Entertainment. "Steve transformed the industry and the Marvel Universe, and his legacy will never be forgotten."

While Lee embraced his status as a creative god among comics fans, appearing at conventions and in constant cameos in Marvel's films, Ditko was a recluse who won the worship of the most hardcore comic-book geeks.

They were quick to praise him and the massive influence he had on art, film and culture Friday.

"Thank you Steve Ditko, for making my childhood weirder," fantasy author and graphic novel author Neil Gaiman said in a series of tweets to his 2.7 million followers. "He saw things his own way, and he gave us ways of seeing that were unique. Often copied. Never equalled. I know I'm a different person because he was in the world."

Edgar Wright, director of movies including "Baby Driver" and "Shaun of the Dead," said on Twitter that Ditko was "influential on countless planes of existence."

"Comics are unimaginable without his influence," tweeted Patch Zircher, a comic-book artist who has worked on "Batman" and "Superman" for DC Comics. "He co-created Spider-Man, which will be remembered as significant as Doyle creating Sherlock Holmes or Fleming creating James Bond. Spider-Man may outlast them both."

English TV and radio host and comic books super-fan Jonathan Martin tweeted that Ditko was "the single greatest comic book artist and creator who ever lived."

The son of a steel-mill worker, Ditko was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 1927. He served in the army in Europe after World War II and began working in comics in the 1950s in New York, eventually landing a drawing job with Marvel forerunner Atlas Comics.

Jack Kirby, Lee's artist on the Fantastic Four and many other Marvel characters, took a stab at creating Spider-Man in 1961, but Lee was unsatisfied and gave the gig to Ditko, who gave Spidey the essential look he still has today.

Ditko left Marvel in 1966, but returned in 1979. One of his later creations was Squirrel Girl, who after her debut in 1992 became a cult favorite among comics fans.

He maintained a writing studio in Manhattan until his death, but had no known surviving family members and was incredibly reclusive, turning down nearly all offers to do interviews, meet fans or appear at movie premieres.

"We didn't approach him," Scott Derrickson, director of the 2016 movie "Doctor Strange," told The Hollywood Reporter. "He's like J.D. Salinger. He is private and has intentionally stayed out of the spotlight. I hope he goes to see the movie wherever he is, because I think we paid homage to his work."

Elvis, Beatles memorabilia items on display at Hard Rock



AP

This July 5, 2018 photo shows suits worn by the Beatles during an early tour of America in front of the Rolls Royce automobile owned by Elvis Presley, part of a large collection of music memorabilia on display at the Hard Rock casino in Atlantic City, N.J.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

(AP)—Elvis Presley's Rolls Royce, the suits the Beatles wore on their first tour of America, Bruce Springsteen's sleeveless faded denim jacket and colorful headband, and Michael Jackson's famous glove are among the items of music memorabilia on display at Atlantic City's new Hard Rock casino.

There are outfits worn by Lady Gaga, Cher, Barbra Streisand, Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey, and shoes from Elton John, Buddy Holly and Gene Simmons of Kiss—if dragon-scale boots

count as shoes.

Guitars in all shapes, sizes and colors, including ones played by Tom Petty, Bob Dylan and Slash, are there, too.

Just about the only thing this casino doesn't have is the Rolling Stones' "Tumbling Dice."

When the Hard Rock opened June 28 in what used to be the Trump Taj Mahal, the casino opened in 1990 by Donald Trump, it brought with it a large display of items from what it calls the world's largest collection of music memorabilia.

"The memorabilia displayed at each Hard Rock

International property holds a special connection to its specific destination and allows visitors a glimpse into the music and the pop culture surrounding it," said Matt Harkness, president of the Atlantic City casino. "The collection of rare memorabilia items that are displayed throughout Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City is tied to musicians from New Jersey, along with those who have a history of performing in our area."

At the front entrance is the cream-colored Rolls that Elvis used to pick up the Beatles from the airport in Los An-

geles, surrounded by mannequins wearing the similarly hued collarless suits in which the Beatles used to perform in the early days.

Alongside is a vintage Springsteen stage outfit (headband included). A glass display case includes autographs from all four Beatles, from Jimi Hendrix and his bandmates, sunglasses and bowties worn by Roy Orbison, and a piece of junk mail delivered to Nirvana singer Kurt Cobain (with his last name spelled wrong) advising him he might already be a winner in a publishing sweepstakes.

Queen Latifah celebrates with hip-hop legends at Essence

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Iconic females in the music industry shined at the Essence Festival, where Queen Latifah used her debut performance to celebrate “Ladies First” and her 30 years in the trenches.

Latifah was one of the headliners on the festival’s main stage Saturday and was joined — to the delight of the crowd — by hip-hop legends MC Lyte, Yo-Yo, Salt-N-Pepa, Missy Elliott and Monie Love

as well as rapper Remy Ma and R&B singer Brandy. She also entertained the audience with her vocal skills, showcasing her love of jazz with a rendition of Phoebe Snow’s “Poetry Man,” which she dedicated to her mother, who died this year of a heart condition.

In an interview with The Associated Press, British singer-songwriter Marsha Ambrosius said she looks forward to performing at the festival every



AP
Queen Latifah performs at the 2018 Essence Festival at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome on Saturday, July 7, 2018, in New Orleans.

the audience a taste of her hits “Far Away” and “Late Nights & Early Mornings” as well as songs from her new album, “Nyla,” named after her 1-year-old daughter and scheduled for release in September.

“As women, we bury our secrets so deep down, you’d never know what affects us. And, on this album, I decided to not only let them all go, but let them be seen. I’m okay with the scars that I wear. And, I don’t think too many are, and that’s why we can dig ourselves a deep hole of depression when we don’t have to. My music is my therapy,” Ambrosius said of the upcoming project.

Bourdain leaves bulk of \$1.2M estate to 11-year-old daughter

NEW YORK

(AP)—Globe-trotting chef, author and TV host Anthony Bourdain was worth \$1.2 million when he died last month and left most of the estate to his 11-year-old daughter, according to court papers filed this week in New York.



Bourdain

announced they were separated but said they were still friends.

The court will appoint a guardian ad litem to represent their daughter Ariane’s interests, because she’s a minor.

Bourdain’s will and related papers show assets including \$425,000 in cash and savings, \$250,000 in personal property, \$500,000 in intangibles like royalties and residuals, and \$35,000 in a brokerage account.

The documents also list a \$1.1 million mortgage.

The 61-year-old Bourdain was found dead June 8 in an apparent suicide in his hotel room in Kaysersberg, France, an ancient village where he was working on his CNN series “Parts Unknown.”

Bourdain wrote his last will and testament in December 2016 and named wife, Ottavia Busia-Bourdain, as executor. By that time, the two had already

instructs Busia to dispose of his “accumulated frequent flier miles” and other possessions like cars, furnishings and jewelry in a way she believes he would’ve wanted.

Bourdain was an irreverent and sometimes foulmouthed presence on TV shows starting with “A Cook’s Tour” on the Food Network.

“Parts Unknown,” his most recent show, was part travelogue, part history lesson, part homage to exotic foods.

Bourdain’s breakthrough as an author came with the 2000 publication of “Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly.”

The book created a sensation by combining frank details of his life and career with behind-the-scenes observations on the culinary industry.

year especially since she gets to experience what she described as a “surreal” lineup.

“The lineup is one long weekend of legends, icons and my heroes. ... It’s an honor and

a humbling experience to be able to set foot on stage with people I’ve looked up to my whole life,” said Ambrosius, who’s performed more than a half-dozen times at the festival.

During her set inside one of the event’s Superlounges — intimate club-like spaces set up in the Superdome’s cavernous halls — Ambrosius gave

Factions in Miss America split over leadership, direction

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

(AP)—Former Miss America winners and state pageant officials are split over the leadership and direction of the organization, which was rocked by a 2017 email scandal that led to the resignations of its top leaders.

Representatives from 22 state pageants signed a petition calling for the resignations of the new Miss America board, including Chairwoman Gretchen Carlson and President and CEO Regina Hopper, The Press of Atlantic City reported Saturday.

But in a letter to the newspaper, 30 former Miss Americas said they “fully support” Carlson, Miss America 1989, and the board members “who are and have been working tirelessly to move our pro-



gram forward.”

The Miss America organization is regrouping after a December scandal in which emails surfaced showing that CEO Sam Haskell and others

mocked winners’ intelligence, looks and sex lives. Haskell resigned Dec. 23, followed by board members.

The shake-up at the organization has resulted in the top

AP
In this April 25, 2017 file photo, Gretchen Carlson attends the TIME 100 Gala, celebrating the 100 most influential people in the world in New York.

three positions being held by women, and the new leaders have begun making changes. The swimsuit competition has been dropped and in the evening-wear portion contestants will be allowed to wear something other than a gown if they want. The talent portion of the contest will remain.

The petition from the state pageant officials expressed a vote of “no confidence” in the Miss America Organization’s board of trustees. It cited a lack of transparency and adherence to best practices, The Press said.

Mom wants to ban alcoholic daughter from son’s reception

DEAR ABBY: Our son and his fiancée are having a destination wedding. My husband and I are hosting a local reception here where we live because we would like our close family and friends to be able to celebrate their wedding.

Our problem is, our 24-year-old daughter is an alcoholic who doesn’t see her drinking as a problem. She says she can handle it. Well, she can’t! She got so drunk at the last family wedding that the police and paramedics had to be called. She’s currently on probation because she assaulted a paramedic.

The only way she could go to the destination wedding is if we paid for it, which my husband and I agreed not to do. My husband does want to include her at the party we are having in our city. Because she is uncontrollable and unpredictable, I do not want her there. Oh, and this is the same venue where she got hammered at the last family wedding.

I don’t want to take the chance that she will ruin this special evening. My husband thinks he will be able to control her and that it won’t “look right” if the sister of the groom is absent. I think it would be much worse if she causes a scene, and I would rather avoid a potential disaster. What should we do?

MOTHER OF THE GROOM

DEAR MOTHER: Your daughter is an addict in denial,

which is sad for all concerned. Because her behavior is unpredictable, and there is a strong possibility that she will disrupt the reception, she should not attend. If your husband is worried about how it will look if she isn’t there, he should consider how it will look if the police have to be called and haul her away (again). What your daughter needs is an intervention, not an invitation.

DEAR ABBY: I’m a newlywed, married to an amazing man who also brought me an adorable 5-year-old stepson. Although we married only three months ago, I have been in both of their lives for three years. We recently found out we are expecting, and I am over the moon! We haven’t told anyone yet because we are waiting to get through the first trimester.

My question to you is, while this baby is my first, he or she is clearly his second. How do I answer when people ask if this is our first baby? In a sense, it is our first baby, but I don’t want to lessen the importance of my stepson. At the same time I’m so excited to share that yes, this is my first baby!

I’m looking forward to all the excitement and the advice people can give, and I want to share the news. Do you have guidance on how I ought to phrase the best news of my life? I never thought I would have this dilemma.

OVER THE MOON IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



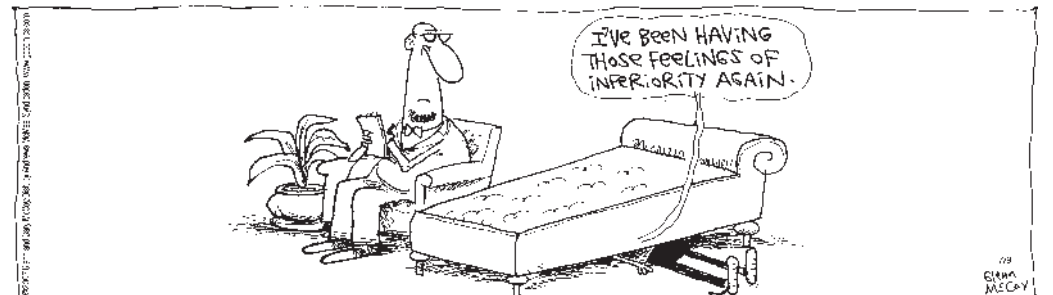
DEAR OVER THE MOON: Congratulations on your impending birth. I applaud you for your sensitivity to the feelings of your stepson. If you are asked if this is your first baby, reply that it is your first but your husband’s second. And when you do, be sure to tell the “asker” how much you would appreciate any advice the person would care to share about infants, and I’m sure you’ll get an earful.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.


By Jim Davis



By Glenn McCoy



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Explore the possibilities, but don't jump into something too quickly. A smart approach will save you money. Listen to what others have to contribute, but make up your own mind when it comes time to make a decision. ★★★

 **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't lose sight of your creative goals because someone has made you self-conscious about the way you do things. Trust in your ability to be unique and you'll surpass anyone trying to ruin your plans. Set a standard and make an impression. ♣♣

Birthday Baby: You are proactive, opportunistic and unique. You are personable and helpful.

To submit astrological questions to the “Dear Eugenia” column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

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Absorb, Alpaca, Amaranth, Angora, Balinese, Bamboo, Basenji, Bedding, Bengal, Blush, Breeds, Brush, Cactus, Camel, Cashmere, Cotton, Cushion, Dog, Down, Earrings, Flax, Kids, Lamb, Lily, Linen, Lipstick, Lotion, Mascara, Millet, Mohair, Nickel, Nylon, Oils, Perfume, Pillow, Poodle, Rugs, Shampoo, Shed, Skin, Sofa, Sunscreen, Sweaters, Syrup, Toner, Wool, Yarn

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Corporate Director

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Diamondbacks set record with rout of Padres



PHOENIX
(AP)—Five home runs, 18

hits, 20 runs.

The Arizona Diamondbacks have never had a better offensive night than they did Saturday against the San Diego Padres.

David Peralta drove in three runs and matched his career best with five hits and the Diamondbacks set a single-game franchise scoring record with a 20-5 rout of the Padres.

"It wasn't just a good night for me," Peralta said. "It was a good night for everybody."

Wil Myers became the third Padres player to homer three times in a game, but San Diego was blown out in its 16th loss in 21 games.

"This day was painful, there is no doubt about it," Padres manager Andy Green said. "This day was painful for fans, painful for players, for us. But you have to look at it like tomorrow you have a chance to split the series against a first-place club. It is one loss. It is a painful one. We will remember it, but we will also move on."

Paul Goldschmidt, Steven Souza Jr., Alex Avila, Nick Ahmed and Ketel Marte homered for the Diamondbacks in breaking the team scoring record set in an 18-7 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on May 17, 2014.

Goldschmidt, Ahmed and Avila also each had three RBI.

Astros 12, White Sox 6

In Houston, Yuli Gurriel and Alex Bregman each homered and Charlie Morton won his 11th as Houston beat Chicago for its fifth straight win.

Morton (11-2) allowed five runs and five hits with eight strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings.



Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Robbie Ray throws during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the San Diego Padres, Saturday, July 7, 2018, in Phoenix.

The right-hander has won four of his last five starts.

James Shields (3-10) allowed a season high-tying eight runs on a season-high 10 hits with nine strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings for the White Sox, who have lost four straight. Shields had allowed one run over his prior two starts.

Athletics 6, Indians 3, 11 innings

In Cleveland, Stephen Piscotty hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the 11th inning and Oakland Athletics past Cleveland.

Matt Chapman, who had a career-high four hits, scored later in the frame on Jonathan Lucroy's grounder to complete the A's comeback victory and make a winner out of closer Blake Treinen (5-1).

Oakland won for the ninth time in 11 games since June 25 and snapped the Indians' home winning streak at eight.

Nationals 18, Marlins 4

In Washington, Mark Reynolds homered twice and drove in a career-high 10 runs, Max

Scherzer won for the first time since June 5, and the Washington Nationals beat the Miami Marlins.

Washington has won three straight and scored a combined 35 runs since calling a players-only meeting on Wednesday after falling under .500 for the first time since May 2.

Dodgers 3, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Ross Stripling pitched another gem and Justin Turner drove in two runs to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a win over the Angels.

Stripling (7-2) is making a strong case to make the NL All-Star team with another terrific outing. He allowed just one run and three hits -- all by Mike Trout—in six innings. The right-hander struck out seven and walked none, and lowered his ERA to 2.14.

Red Sox 15, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Andrew Benintendi homered, doubled, walked a career-high four times and scored four runs, and Boston routed Kansas City.

Mookie Betts had four hits, raising his American League-leading average to .343.

Twins 5, Orioles 4

In Minneapolis, Kyle Gibson recovered from a rough start to throw seven innings, and Max Kepler homered in his second straight game to lead Minnesota past Baltimore.

Bobby Wilson went 2-for-3 with three RBI for the Twins, who won their third in a row.

Cubs 8, Reds 7

In Chicago, Javier Baez homered and had four hits, including a game-tying infield single in the eighth, and Chicago rallied from a five-run deficit.

Anthony Rizzo's RBI groundout capped a four-run eighth inning for Chicago.

Phillies 3, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Nick Williams, Scott Kingery and Jorge Alfaro drove in runs on consecutive at-bats in the seventh inning to help first-place Phil-

adelphia win its sixth straight.

Jake Arrieta (6-6) worked around six hits with the help of eight strikeouts to hold the Pirates to two runs over seven innings.

Cardinals 3, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Carlos Martinez pitched seven effective innings for his third consecutive win and St. Louis beat San Francisco.

Martinez (6-4) allowed one run on six hits with three strikeouts and did not walk a batter for the third time this season.

Braves 5, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Anibal Sanchez pitched effectively into the seventh and Freddie Freeman added three hits, lifting slumping Atlanta over Milwaukee.

Sanchez (4-2) retired 19 in a row at one point to help snap Atlanta's season high four-game skid.

Tigers 7, Rangers 2

In Detroit, Nicholas Castellanos homered as part of a seven-run first inning for Detroit, and the Tigers cruised past Texas.

Cole Hamels (4-8) retired only two batters for the Rangers in his shortest start since 2010.

Yankees 8, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Luis Severino pitched five innings to earn his major league-leading 14th win, Brett Gardner and Aaron Judge each hit solo home runs, and New York beat Toronto.

Severino (14-2) won his fifth straight start, allowing three runs and five hits.

Rays 3, Mets 0

In New York, Blake Snell blanked the Mets over a career-high-tying 7 1/3 innings, Wilson Ramos drove in a pair of runs and Tampa Bay downed New York.

Snell (12-4) struck out nine, scattering six hits and three walks while lowering his ERA to 2.09.

Rockies 5, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Noel Cuevas hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning among his three hits to lead Colorado to a win against Seattle.

Carlos Gonzalez added a double and a run-scoring single for the Rockies, who have won five in a row.

Segura homered for the Mariners, who came into the series having won nine of their last 10, but have now lost two in a row.

Coaching changes could get Mariota back on track



TENNESSEE—There are seven new head coaches in place this offseason, and six of them are bringing new offensive coordinators with them. That means new concepts and playbooks and, most importantly in the fantasy world, opportunities for offensive skill position players. New coaches provide plenty of food for thought as the season approaches, and how their players fit in their systems goes a long way toward making a successful team. In this series, we'll take a look at some of the most intriguing players/new coach tandems who hope to take advantage of new roles in 2018.

There are few ways around it: Marcus Mariota had a dis-

appointing third campaign in Tennessee. Though he only missed one game, the former University of Oregon star was clearly hobbled by a nagging hamstring issue. He finished 19th among quarterbacks in fantasy points per game last year, just one season after finishing ninth, per PlayerProfiler. He threw half as many touchdowns (26 to 13), produced the most interceptions in his career (15) and set a new career low in yards per game.

Not all of Mariota's drop off was his fault, of course. Wide receiver Corey Davis, drafted fifth overall, missed much of the season with his own hamstring injury. The Titans only had one wide receiver—Rishard Matthews—start double-digit games, and even he had health issues. The

running game, so effective in 2016, struggled.

In comes a new coach—Mike Vrabel—and, most importantly for Mariota and the offense, new offensive coordinator Matt LaFleur, imported from the NFC West champion Los Angeles Rams. LaFleur broke into the NFL coaching ranks with the Houston Texans in 2008, serving as an assistant under then-offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan. When Shanahan joined his father Mike in Washington, he brought along LaFleur, then just 31, as his quarterbacks coach. LaFleur played an instrumental role in Robert Griffin III's rookie year success as well as the development of Kirk Cousins. LaFleur kept the same role under Kyle Shanahan in Atlanta, and the Falcons were

a half away from winning the Super Bowl. A hot commodity on the coaching carousel by that point, Shanahan was named the 49ers' head coach, and LaFleur reunited with fellow former Washington coach Sean McVay in Los Angeles, becoming an offensive coordinator for the first time.

It's hard to argue with LaFleur's resume, and he's only 39 years old. He helped Griffin III to one of the best rookie campaigns ever. He's been key in the development of the league's two highest-paid quarterbacks (Matt Ryan and Cousins). Last year in Los Angeles, he turned Jared Goff from an unsure rookie to the leader of one of the league's most dangerous attacks.

Now he's charged with getting Mariota and the Titans offense back on track.

Nadal, Djokovic join Federer in 4th round

LONDON (AP)—Novak Djokovic shrugged off a bad call by the chair umpire that cost him a break in his Wimbledon win over home favorite Kyle Edmund on Saturday.

He was less forgiving when it came to the way he was treated by the crowd at the All England Club.

"There is a certain unwritten borderline where you feel that it's a bit too much," Djokovic said about being booed at times by the partisan crowd on Centre Court. "I didn't deserve to be treated the way I was treated by certain individuals."

Neither the crowd nor a big mistake by the umpire could unglue Djokovic, though, as the three-time champion won 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to reach the round of 16 for the 11th time at the All England Club.

He was robbed of a break at 3-3, 15-40 in the fourth set when the ball bounced twice before Edmund managed to return it over the net. Djokovic complained to the chair umpire but the call stood—even though TV replays also showed Edmund's shot had actually landed wide.

Edmund ended up holding serve but Djokovic broke at his next opportunity to make sure there will be no British players in the second week of the tournament.

"I was 100 percent convinced it (bounced) twice," Djokovic said.

"Anybody can make a mis-



take. That's OK. But I don't understand why he (the umpire) didn't allow me to challenge the ball. I asked him. ... So, yes, it was quite a strange decision from (the) chair umpire, but it happens."

That wasn't the only point of contention in the match. Djokovic got into a bit of a two-sided argument with the crowd after he was booed following a

time violation in the third set. He responded by blowing kisses into the stands.

"I thought the crowd's reaction after that (time violation) was quite unnecessary. A couple (of) guys really, you know, pretending they were coughing and whistling while I was



bouncing the ball more or less to the end of the match at that end where I received the time violation. "Those are the things obviously that people don't get to see or hear on the TV. I just think it's not necessary. That's what I didn't like. ... My interaction with the crowd, I

thought had good things and not great things. I just reacted the way I thought was fair, the way they reacted to me."

Edmund, the last British player remaining in the tournament, said he didn't notice anything disrespectful from the crowd, but acknowledged it was a Davis Cup-like atmosphere.

"It was a great atmosphere

AP
Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Kyle Edmund of Great Britain during their men's singles match on the sixth day of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Saturday July 7, 2018.

to be in," Edmund said. "When you're at Centre Court, to have the crowd behind you is a great thing."

He also insisted he was unsure whether the ball actually bounced twice on the disputed call in the fourth set.

"If in real life it's hard to tell, then it's hard to tell for me when I'm scrambling," he said. "We need the umpire to get off his chair and go to the TV monitor on the side."

It was the third time Djokovic faced a British player at Wimbledon, losing to Andy Murray in the 2013 final and beating James Ward in 2016. But this was the first time he got a reaction like this from the crowd.

"The crowd was very fair when I played against Andy. Obviously they support their player," he said. "But today there was just some people, especially behind that end where I got the time violation, they kept on going, they kept on going, provoking. That's something that I can tolerate for a little bit, but I'm going to show that I'm present as well, that they can't do whatever they feel like doing."

Mickelson says \$10M match with Woods in the works



NEW YORK (AP)—Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson are in talks to stage a \$10 million winner-take-all 18-hole golf showdown, according to a report on the Golf.com website.

Plans to stage the made-for-television event on July 3 in Las Vegas fell through, according to the report, but representatives for 14-time major champion Woods and five-time major winner Mickelson remain committed to making it happen.

"We're working on a different date," Mickelson said. "I thought it was done for the third but obviously it wasn't."

Mickelson, a 48-year-old left-hander, and Woods, a 42-year-old with 79 US PGA titles who hasn't won an event since 2013, played together in a rare practice round at Augusta National ahead of the Masters in April. They were also paired together in May for the first two rounds of the Players

Championship.

"Why don't we just bypass all the ancillary stuff of a tournament and just go head-to-head and just have kind of a high-stakes, winner-take-all match," Mickelson said at the Florida event.

"Now, I don't know if he wants a piece of me, but I just think it would be something that would be really fun for us to do and I think there would be a lot of interest in it if we just went straight to the final round."

Talks were well under way for just such a matchup, according to the report, with Woods playing along, saying, "I'm definitely not against that. We'll play for whatever makes him uncomfortable."

Mickelson says with so much money on the line, even millionaires will be out of their comfort zone.

"It's a ridiculous amount of money," Mickelson said. "No matter how much money you have, this amount will take both of us out of our comfort zone."



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Carmelo Anthony could soon join LeBron James in Los Angeles.

The Lakers are one of the 34-year-old forward's preferred destinations, according to a report from Yahoo Sports. Anthony and the Thunder reportedly agreed to part ways earlier this week.

Anthony was traded from the Knicks to Oklahoma City in exchange for Enes Kanter, Doug McDermott and a second-round pick in September 2017. He hit just 40.2 percent of his shots and averaged a career-low 16.2 points in 2017-18, his lone season with the Thunder.

Anthony, a 10-time All-Star, was originally selected by the Nuggets with the third overall pick in the 2003 draft. He spent just under eight seasons in Denver before he was dealt to New York in February 2011.

Anthony has averaged 24.1 points and 6.5 rebounds per game during his 15-year NBA career.

Los Angeles has also resigned Kentavious Caldwell-

Pope and added Lance Stephenson, Rajon Rondo as well as JaVale McGee to its roster this offseason.

James and Anthony entered the NBA in the same season and are close friends.

Suns' Booker signs 5-year, \$158 million deal

In Phoenix, Devin Booker, the high-scoring guard at the heart of Suns' rebuilding plans, has signed a five-year, \$158 million maximum contract.

Booker, 21, tweeted a photo of himself smiling as he signed the contract Saturday night, moments before the Suns announced the deal, which makes him the highest-paid player in the franchise's history.

The 13th overall pick in the 2015 draft out of Kentucky, Booker has averaged 19.8 points per game in his three NBA seasons. He averaged 24.9 points last season, shooting 38 percent from 3-point range. He won the NBA 3-point contest at All-Star weekend in February.

Booker set a franchise record by scoring 70 points in a game

at Boston on March 24, 2017, just the sixth player in NBA history to score that many.

"I am humbled & honored to commit to the Suns organization long term," he wrote. "I loved calling Phoenix home the last 3 seasons as this team & community are special to me. Thank you to the Suns for drafting me and believing in me. I look forward to the future & pursuing a title as a Sun."

The announced signing came five days after Booker and his agent met with Suns owner Robert Sarver, general manager Ryan McDonough and vice president of basketball operations James Jones in Los Angeles to discuss the contract.

The contract takes effect in the 2019-20 season.

"Book' has been a pillar for the Suns franchise ever since he arrived in Phoenix in 2015," McDonough said in a news release announcing the signing. "Devin and the team both wanted to extend this agreement with the club as long as we possibly could. This agreement reflects a commitment from both parties to the Phoenix community, the

state of Arizona and Suns fans worldwide."

Booker topped 4,000 career points last March 2, becoming the third-youngest player to reach that milestone. Only LeBron James and Kevin Durant were younger.

But while Booker has amassed big individual statistics, there has been little team success. The Suns have missed the playoffs the last eight seasons and had the worst record in the NBA last season at 21-61.

After the season, Booker said his days of missing the playoffs were over.

That may be a bit optimistic, but the team added to its talented core of young players big-time when it selected center Deandre Ayton with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft. Ayton and fellow first-rounder Mikal Bridges join Booker and Josh Jackson as the talented young core of the team under new coach Igor Kokoskov.

Booker will be 26, and presumably approaching his prime, when the new contract expires.

Micro Games accommodation, catering issues addressed

The Yap State Government in close collaboration with the FSM national government and the 2018 Micronesian Games Organizing Committee (MGOC) was able to reach an agreement this year with Philippine-based Fahrenheit Company Limited to provide accommodations and catering services. Accommodations came in the form of a 146-room cruise ship—the *M/V Forever Lucky*—to be docked at the Colonia port in Yap.

Last July 3, *Forever Lucky* was intercepted by the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine Coast Guard at the Orion Port of Bataan, Philippines. The ship, along with 41 crewmembers and 139 workers, were being held in custody at the port pending submission of required documents and the results of the authorities' investigation of alleged human

trafficking and illegal documentation.

Last July 4, the Micro Games Organizing Committee co-chairs convened with the Yap State Leadership in a special meeting to discuss the issue. The governor met with selected cabinet members again to provide the government's side of updates after close collaboration with the group tasked by the FSM president to assist the State of Yap on this particular matter. Following that meeting, the Directors of the Departments of R&D (the co-chair of the MGOC Marketing & Communications Committee) and DY&CA (the co-Chair of the 2018 Micro Games Organizing Committee) were tasked by the Governor to take the lead on this urgent matter. The directors called a special and final meeting of the Organizing Committee to update the MGOC on develop-



ments on the cruise ship issue, and to formalize the necessary course of actions.

The MGOC marketing & communications committee co-chair reported that as last Saturday (July 6), the outlook seemed positive with the ship still coming to Yap, after liaising with the ship's management in the Philippines. During the meeting, it was shared that one of the issues faced now in the Philippines with the ship owners was no longer the transport of the 139 workers on the ship—which was not permitted by Philippine authorities—but the seaworthiness of the vessel to transport that many persons aboard. Fahrenheit Company Limited has informed Yap State that it is exploring options to fly in the workers in a charter flight to Yap directly from the Philippines, leaving only the crew to man *Forever Lucky* to

Yap after the successful issuance of a special permit. The workers will then rendezvous with the ship in Yap. The company also reiterated their understanding that the ship reaches Yap on the stressed deadline of two days before July 13.

The Organizing Committee during the meeting stressed that the pressing problem now was catering. The ship was supposed to arrive a week earlier before the start of the Games to prepare for catering services. The Athletes Village is scheduled to open on July 13. MGOC co-chair & CEO stated that local food providers would need to be identified; the Food Security & Catering Committee would have to take the lead in coordinating this along with its currently ongoing tasks, to engage local catering services to provide for the over 300 athletes from the different participating entities scheduled to arrive in Yap as early as this Saturday.

The first arrivals of athletes and teams from the other islands will be coming in on the double United Airlines flights this weekend. The meeting concluded with the Organizing Committee affirming its support on the CEO's request with the assistance of the Food Se-

curity & Catering Committee.

For more information or clarifications, email 2018microgames@gmail.com, message @MicroGames2018 on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram, or stop by the Micro Games office in the Small Business Development Center, Room 201. (PR)

ENGLAND

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Even at Wimbledon, the home of lawn tennis, updates of England's goals were spread by fans watching or listening to the match on their cell phones.

"I know the fans here are enjoying it," Kane said. "The fans at home, I'm sure we'll see some videos tonight of them enjoying it."

The chant of "On our way, on our way, to Moscow, on our way" came from England fans in one corner of the Samara Arena throughout the match, and the team's march to the Russian capital is being fuelled by goals from set pieces.

There was another against Sweden, with Maguire heading in a driven corner from Ashley Young in the 30th minute. It was England's eighth set-piece goal of its 11 in Russia, and the center back's first in international soccer.

The standard of England's crossing has particularly stood out this tournament, and Alli added the second goal by meeting a far-post cross from midfielder Jesse Lingard with a powerful header in the 59th. At 22, Alli became the second-youngest scorer for England at a World Cup behind Michael Owen.

"We knew set plays would be key," Maguire said. "And also that little ball that Jesse sent in for Dele, that was great. We worked on that in practice."

It proved to be a match too far for the Swedes, who advanced further than they ever did with Ibrahimovic—the team's star for more than a decade — by being compact and hard to break down. That helped them win a two-leg playoff against Italy to get to the World Cup, top a group containing Germany, and then beat Switzerland in the round of 16.

They began solidly against England in a slow and sloppy

start to the game that resembled a pre-season friendly at times, only to be outdone by a goal Sweden isn't used to conceding.

"Up until that corner, I felt that we had everything under control," Sweden coach Janne Andersson said. "I felt that we had the match in our hands."

Although Sweden rallied in the final 30 minutes, forcing two good saves from goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, England comfortably held on for its first shutout of the tournament.

Croatia ends Russia's fairy tale

Russians danced, drank and celebrated their national soccer team for three delirious, dreamlike weeks.

Now it's time to get back to reality.

Russia entered the World Cup without having won a match at the tournament since 2002 and with the lowest ranking of the 32 teams, but suddenly the host nation couldn't stop winning.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt were swept aside in the group stage. Spain, the 2010 champion, was played to a standstill and beaten on penalties in the round of 16. Only Croatia, following another penalty shootout in the quarterfinals on Saturday, was able to knock the Russians out of their own tournament.

Since the opening match nearly a month ago, Moscow went almost without sleep as fans danced through the night on the streets near the Kremlin, locations where police would normally break up unauthorized gatherings by force. They drank while they partied, singing songs and taking pictures with visiting fans from other countries.

After being eliminated from the tournament, Russia coach Stanislav Cherchesov summed up his team's success with military metaphors.

"We feel like soldiers scripted into the army," he said. "Today we got demobilized but I'd have wanted to keep serving and fighting. It's the case when demobilization leaves you disappointed. We'd like to have served our motherland on July 15 (in the final) but we didn't manage to do it."

Russia forward Artyom Dzyuba talked often of "the fairy tale," and the fans responded with a giant banner for the Spain game urging them to "make the fairy tale come true."

It ended on Saturday, barely, when Russia lost the shootout to Croatia 4-3.

Many on the team were impressive during the tournament, however, and could now demand vastly improved salaries, including Dzyuba, creative midfielder Alexander Golovin and fullback Mario Fernandes.

Russia is a country of vast potential in soccer, with a nationwide network of academies and big-spending clubs fueled by government money. But that's rarely translated into success on the field and opportunities have been missed.

The last time Russia did so well at a major tournament was when it reached the semifinals of the 2008 European Championship. But the team didn't get past the group stage of any tournament for the next decade.

Players like Andrei Arshavin and Roman Pavlyuchenko struggled to apply their obvious talent in Europe's biggest leagues.

Denis Cheryshev was Russia's biggest star at this year's World Cup with four goals in five games. The Villarreal winger warned against complacency.

Brazil laments loss; back to reality of turmoil

Brazilian fans hugged, teared up and hung their heads Friday after their national team

was knocked out of the World Cup by Belgium.

The stinging 2-1 defeat came just as the Selecao, as the team is known, had begun to gather steam, and Brazilians dared to hope that a victory could wash away years of recession, political uncertainty—and a humiliating defeat to Germany four years ago.

"The World Cup allowed us a moment to forget our problems," said Cristiano Conceicao, who works in a furniture store and watched the game with thousands of others in a traditional gathering place for soccer fans, a several-block stretch of Rio de Janeiro known as the Alzirao. "Break's over now."

Soccer is more than just a game in Brazil, where it central to national identity. But the World Cup in Russia has been an especially welcome distraction. Brazil is just emerging from a deep, prolonged recession. It has lost confidence in its leaders as a corruption investigation revealed endemic graft among its political and corporate elite that shocked even the most cynical. Crime is rising in many cities, many Brazilians feel the last president was improperly removed from office, and the population is heading into national elections more divided than it has been in recent memory.

The Brazilian team got off to a slow start this year, and its star Neymar particularly came in for criticism for not meeting expectations. But as strong teams were unexpectedly eliminated—among them Germany, Spain and Argentina—confidence began to rise in Brazil that the Selecao might actually be able to win the title and purge the memories of its 7-1 semifinal loss to Germany at the last World Cup.

However, Belgium broke Brazilians' heart with a 2-1 win over Selecao.

CNMI

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and Camacho's wards played steady for a 6-3 win. The victory moved the Commonwealth bets to a semis showdown against rival Guam, which swept its four games in the elimination to automatically move into the Final Four. The CNMI went on to eliminate its favored foe—a task that Camacho said was not easy.

"Honestly, we were not expecting to win via wide margin (9-2) because Guam beat us in our first meeting. Since we lost to Guam in the elimination, we just asked the boys to go all out as if it's their last game in the tournament. We told them to forget what happened in our first meeting and play their game," Camacho said.

"After that victory, the players' confidence went up, everyone was so pumped up and happy," the CNMI Senior All-Star team manager said.

Though their spirits were high, the CNMI Senior All-Star Team players' body started to show signs of fatigue in the first five innings of their title match against the Philippines. The finale was played less than an hour after the CNMI knocked

out Guam, giving the visiting team no enough time to recover.

"They were very tired and you could see it in the first five innings, as we were not able to score. It also did not help that we're not able to scout the Philippines. We were on a blind spot and played through our instinct—stay with our game plan, which is strong pitching and be aggressive in batting," Camacho said.

After the long silence, the CNMI made its move at the top of the sixth inning, scoring three runs.

"Trevon Lieto (who hit an RBI double) sparked the rally and from there the boys regained their energy and the rest is history," Camacho said.

Joining Lieto on the World Series-bound team are Leveque Iguel, Vicente Camacho II, Josenio Alvarez, Kiana Aldan, Pedro Maratita, Jordan Babauta, Dennis Cabrera, Justin Peter Celis, Aven Evangelista, Joaquin Fleming, Ignacio Mendiola, Donovan Deleon Guerrero, Joel Norita, Orren-Cody Cruz, and Arby Yaguel. Juan Manibusan and Alfonso Jose Evangelista are the head and assistant coaches, respectively.

CAROL

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The No. 1 seed Lee took the singles crown without dropping a singles set in the 48-player draw. Earlier in the semifinals, the CNMI player labored through a 7-6 (4) triumph over No. 5 and China's Jingyi Wang in the first set before cruising to a 6-0 victory in the second to march into the finals at the upper half of the draw.

In the lower half, Hayashige, who earlier eliminated two seeded opponents, caught another big fish in No. 12 and compatriot Manami Ukita, 6-3, 6-4, to set up a finals showdown against the top-ranked Lee. The Commonwealth player then ended the Japanese's hopes for another upset after winning the title game in two sets.

In the doubles finals, Lee paired with Hong Kong's Wing Ka Lin in downing Papua New Guinea's Patricia Apisah and Australia's Helena Spiridis, 6-4, 6-3.

Lee was also seeded first in the doubles and she and Lin drew a bye in the opening round before sweeping Hayashige and Konomi Miyakawa, 6-4, 6-0, to make it to the quarterfinals. In the Round of 8, the CNMI-Hong Kong pair also needed only two sets

to oust Australia's Komaki Ido and Jessica Zhu Stanmore, 6-4, 7-5. The Assuie marched into the quarterfinals following a tough 7-5, 6-7 (4), 10-8 win over New Zealand's Ema Miyaura and Vivian Yang.

With two opponents down, Lee and Lin were next pitted against the Chinese duo of Wang and Jing Yan and the eventual champions extended their winning streak with a 6-4, 6-0 triumph over the No. 4 seed before capping the tournament with another straight set victory against Apisah and Spiridis.

Spiridis and Apisah moved into the doubles title game after pulling off a come-from-behind win over the unranked Minami Tani of Japan and Xiaouan Xue of China in the other Final Four pairing, 5-7 (4), 6-4, 10-3.

Meanwhile, in the boys division, India's Mann Shah notched his second consecutive singles crown after sweeping Japan's Gaku Moriya in the finals, 6-1, 6-2.

Shah, who late last month topped the South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2018, also played in the doubles finals with compatriot Aaryan Zaveri, but the No. 1 seed pair was stunned by the unranked Bryce Robinson and Junyi Tang of Australia, 6-1, 4-6, 10-5.

2018 Civic Center Inter-color Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Saipan Vegas' Leo Galarse, center, drives against Chowtime's Mark Demonte Verde, left, and Jawn Joyner, during the third quarter of their title game in the 2018 Civic Center Inter-color Basketball League held early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Saipan Vegas' Randy Mungcal, right, pulls up for a short jumper in front of Chowtime's Jawn Joyner.



Chowtime's Jawn Joyner, right, beats Saipan Vegas' Alvin Almario for the rebound.



Saipan Vegas' Angelo Fernando, right, throws up a shot against Chowtime's Jawn Joyner.



Chowtime's Jomac Manzano unloads a floater in front of the defense of Saipan Vegas' Badong Camacho.



Saipan Vegas' Alvin Almario, left, faces two Chowtime defenders.



Saipan Vegas' Randy Mungcal, center, loses possession after getting fouled by Chowtime's Mark Demonte Verde, right, while the former's teammate Junar Guiab tries to pick up the loose ball.



Saipan Vegas and Chowtime players get ready for the rebound play.



**Diamondbacks
set record with
rout of Padres**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Nadal, Djokovic
join Federer in
4th round**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Carol sweeps Oceania Open



AP
England's Raheem Sterling, top, challenges for the ball with Sweden's Andreas Granqvist during the quarterfinal match at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Samara Arena, in Samara, Russia, Saturday, July 7, 2018.

England reaches semis for first time since 1990

SAMARA, Russia (AP)—England achieved something David Beckham's generation never managed: It reached the semifinals of the World Cup.

Harry Maguire and Dele Alli scored with headers in a 2-0 win over Sweden on Saturday, earning England's youthful team a match against Croatia for a place in the final on July 15.

"We looked composed," England captain Harry Kane said. "We looked like we controlled the game."

England's fairly muted celebrations reflected the routine nature of the victory over a hard-working Swedish side that had already gone further than expected in



its first major tournament without Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

England's deep run also is a surprise. Not even the England side containing stars like Beckham, Steven Gerrard and a young Wayne Rooney ever got this far at a major tournament.

The 1966 World Cup champions last reached the semifinals in 1990, losing the first of a series of haunting penalty shootouts. In 2014, the team didn't even make it out of the group stage.

Yet the performances of Gareth Southgate's squad—the second youngest at the tournament—are being celebrated wildly back home.

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SEMIS SCHEDULE

Belgium VS **France**

(July 11, 4AM)

England VS **Croatia**

(July 12, 4AM)

SOURCE: FIFA.COM (Schedule is based on Saipan Time)

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Carol Lee's streak continued, as she topped the Oceania Open Junior Championships 2018 last weekend at the Regional Tennis Centre Nadovu Park in Fiji.

ITF Juniors Lee bagged the singles crown of the Grade 5 tournament last

Friday for her third consecutive championships in ITF Juniors ranking tournaments and completed the sweep after winning the doubles title last Saturday.

In the singles, Lee, who ruled the 2018 Northern Marianas Junior Championships on Saipan in May and the South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2018 in Lautoka last month, defeated unranked Kanami Hayashige of Japan in the finals, 7-5, 6-4.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee, seen here in action in the 2018 Northern Marianas Junior Championships on Saipan in May, won both the singles and doubles titles in the Oceania Open Junior Championships 2018 last weekend in Fiji.

CNMI delivers in crunch time

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Senior All-Star

Team stepped up when it mattered the most to win the 2018 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament and make it

to the World Series.

"We saved the best for last," said manager Doru Camacho, talking about the squad's un-



defeated run in the playoffs, including the thrilling 4-2 finals victory over the host Philippines last Thursday at the Global Villages, Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga.

CNMI Senior All-Stars had only one win to show before seeing action in the playoffs—bowing to Guam, 3-10, prevailing against Indonesia, 15-0, and losing to New Zealand, 3-4.

"We did not go all out in the preliminary round. We tried to reserve our energy and power in the playoffs, especially our pitchers. We knew we will be up for a tough grind, so our focus really was the playoffs," Camacho said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

For their first playoff game, the CNMI Senior All-Stars faced Hong Kong last Wednesday

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Senior All-Star Team players and officials pose with competition volunteers after beating the host Philippines, 4-2, in the finals of the 2018 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament last week in Pampanga.